

J. T. *Æ. 50.*



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THE HISTORY and ANTIQUITIES OF THE ANCIENT TOWN OF LEICESTER;

ATTEMPTED BY

JOHN THROSBY.

16 1

"GENERAL KNOWLEDGE IS TO BE DRAWN FROM PARTICULARITIES."

WARTON.



LEICESTER:
PRINTED BY J. BROWN,
FOR THE AUTHOR.
M, DCC, XCI.

ГЕРСЕЛЕВ

TO THE

RIGHT HONOURABLE

GEORGE TOWNSHEND,

EARL OF THE COUNTY OF LEICESTER,

BARON DE FERRARS OF CHARTLEY,

LORD BOURCHIER,

LOVAINE, BASSET, AND COMPTON.

MY LORD,

AS the following ſheets are the firſt publiſhed attempt at a regular Hiſtory of the ancient Town of Leiceſter, the writer looks up to your Lordſhip, in particular, as a Patron to his labours. Your Lordſhip's ſuperemi-

nent

nent ſtation in the Antiquarian Society, and your illuſtrious deſcent from the renowned Earls of Leiceſter, ſhew the propriety of this Addreſs.

He is,

MY LORD,

With due Deference,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN THROSBY.

THE PREFACE.

IF any one ſhould wiſh to know, or even expect to find in the ſubſequent pages, any thing reſpecting the magnitude or conſequence of Leiceſter, prior to the general deluge, he will be miſerably diſappointed. And that Reader will be equally ſo, who wiſhes to trace, thro' the medium of theſe Sheets, the rich and noble blood which may flow in his veins from the Romans, Saxons or Danes, who, we are told, came hither in ſucceſſion, to plunder, and to raviſh the worthy Matrons and virtuous Maidens, natives of this favoured Iſle. Neither will they *be gratified who are fond of marvellous relations, ominous of great events, which before had long lain hidden in the womb of time.*

The Writer, it may be eaſily perceived, is much out of the habits of conjecture and fanciful ſpeculation: Stories of gigantic forms, perturbed ſpirits, and the bewitching murmers of aged women, now ſilenced in the grave, may reſt till a happy genius riſe to relate the tale of wonder and call forth the tear of ſorrow. His Hiſtory begins with viſible demonſtrations of Truths, renowned Monuments of Antiquity; which ſtill remain the moſt venerable tokens of the age and conſequence of Leiceſter.

Some things, in continuation of the narrative, may be found not to ſquare, exactly, with the penetration of the ſage Obſerver. Let ſuch an one remember that the Writer had no beaten track, no ſmooth paſſage to travel over: his road was thro' a field beſet, as it were, with the bramble and the wild thorn; and, in ſome places thro' depths of mire and clay, by the help, only, of a ſhaded Moon. If, at the concluſion, this attempt be found imperfect, it may then even rank with ſome efforts of a ſimilar nature in other Diſtricts; above which J. T's *ambition has not taught him to aſpire.*

CON-

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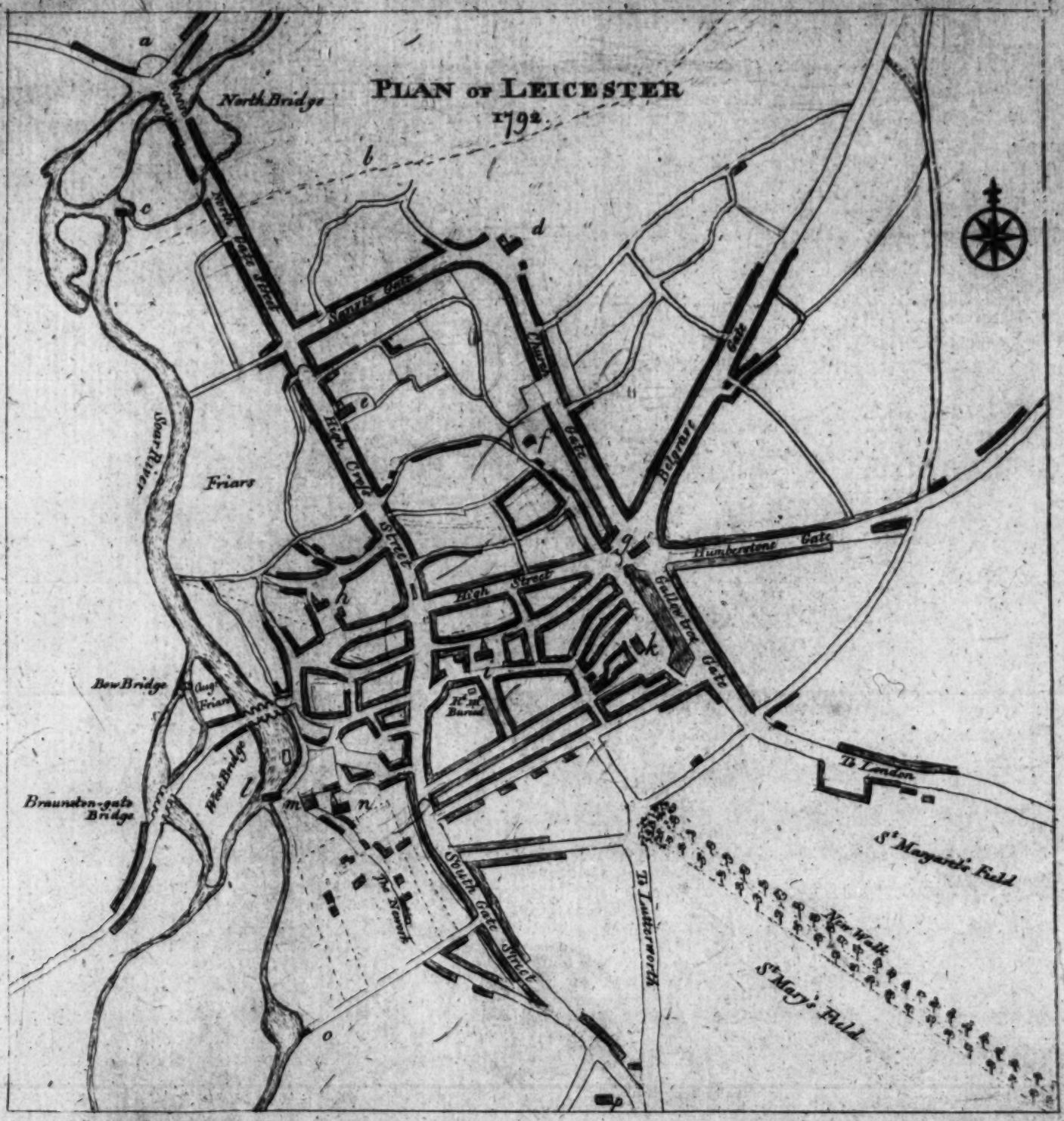
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THE

G.R. III.



a St Leonard's Church Yard
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g Assembly Room
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p Infirmary

THE
HISTORY and ANTIQUITIES
OF
LEICESTER.

SECT. I.

The origin of the Town of Leiceſter, its Antiquities and Hiſtory till it became chartered under King John.

I Once obſerved, and ſometimes we are fond of what we have ſaid, that, Man is naturally inquiſitive about events of little moment: not-content with beholding the objects that furround him wherever he appears; not ſatisfied with ſurveying their beauty, wondrous mechaniſm, and uſefulneſs; not long tempted to adore that Beneficent Hand from whence the glorious univerſe diſplays its magnificence; not filled with contemplation on the unalterable events of time, that hourly paſs before him, in pleaſing and diſpleaſing ſucceſſion, he would willingly trace back the firſt ſketch of Omnipotent Wiſdom, exploring, as he proceeds, the obliviated depths of long loſt hiſtory. But ſuch projects of human ſagacity, are often humbled by diſappointment, in diſſonant opinions. *Man* often ſees the labours of his life contemptuouſly diſregarded, or himſelf charged with expoſing the wild reveries of a fanciful imagination. Aware of the uſeleſsneſs of ſuch employment, I will endeavour to make a more profitable uſe of the room preſcribed for this work,

For antient ſtory has been long obſcured. Fable, and the forwardneſs of man to meet wonders, have left few traces of remote antiquity undefaced. Ingenious men have indeed for a time, *amuſed us* with their literary reſearches for paſt events; but ſuch impreſſions on the human mind are of ſhort duration when they are not ſupported by the truths of hiſtory.

Camden ſays that "Leiceſter makes an evident fair ſhew of great "Antiquity." Chronologers have ſaid that Leiceſter was built two thouſand five hundred years ago, or before Chriſt, 844 years. "Leir, "King, builded Caire Leir, now called Leiceſter. He had three "daughters, Coneral, Ragale and Cordelle, which Cordelle ſucceed-"ed him in his kingdom when he had reigned 40 years (*a*)". Great credit is not to be given to theſe accounts of that diſtant period; but notwithſtanding we are not altogether to diſcredit them. King Leir has the reputation of building the great Temple Janus, which ſtood near the banks of the river Leir now ſoar, and wherein, it is ſaid, he was buried(*b*). That a great Temple or heathen edifice ſtood near the ſite of St. Nicholas' church is probable: foundations of ſtrong and amazing thick walls have been frequently diſcovered leading from that church to nearly the banks of the river. I ſaw one of them in a cellar of the houſe at the Talbot, kept then by Mr. Bound: the wall was almoſt impenetrable. It is agreed however by all Writers that Leiceſter was built long before the time of the Romans, and indeed the variation of its name demonſtrates that it has paſſed through a long ſucceſſion of time. Its firſt name probably was Caer Leir or Lerion, afterwards Lege-ceſtria, Leogora, Legeoceſter and in the ſaxon annals Legerceaſter, and, with ſome other little variations, now Leiceſter; and I judge it is about to undergo another change, to, *Leſter*. Upon poſt-chaiſe, letters, and parcels you now often ſee written, *Le'ſter*. It has been diſputed whether it did not once bear the name of Ratæ: but of this hereafter.

The Temple of Janus, mentioned above, has occaſioned a variety of opinions. Burton and ſome others contend that the ruin known by

(*a*) Stowe. (*b*) Jeffry ap Arthur.


G.R. III.

PL. I.

p: 40.



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1 Mercian kings.



2 D of Lancaster. 1353



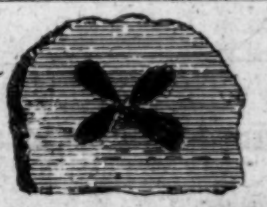
3 R. de Bellamont. 1102



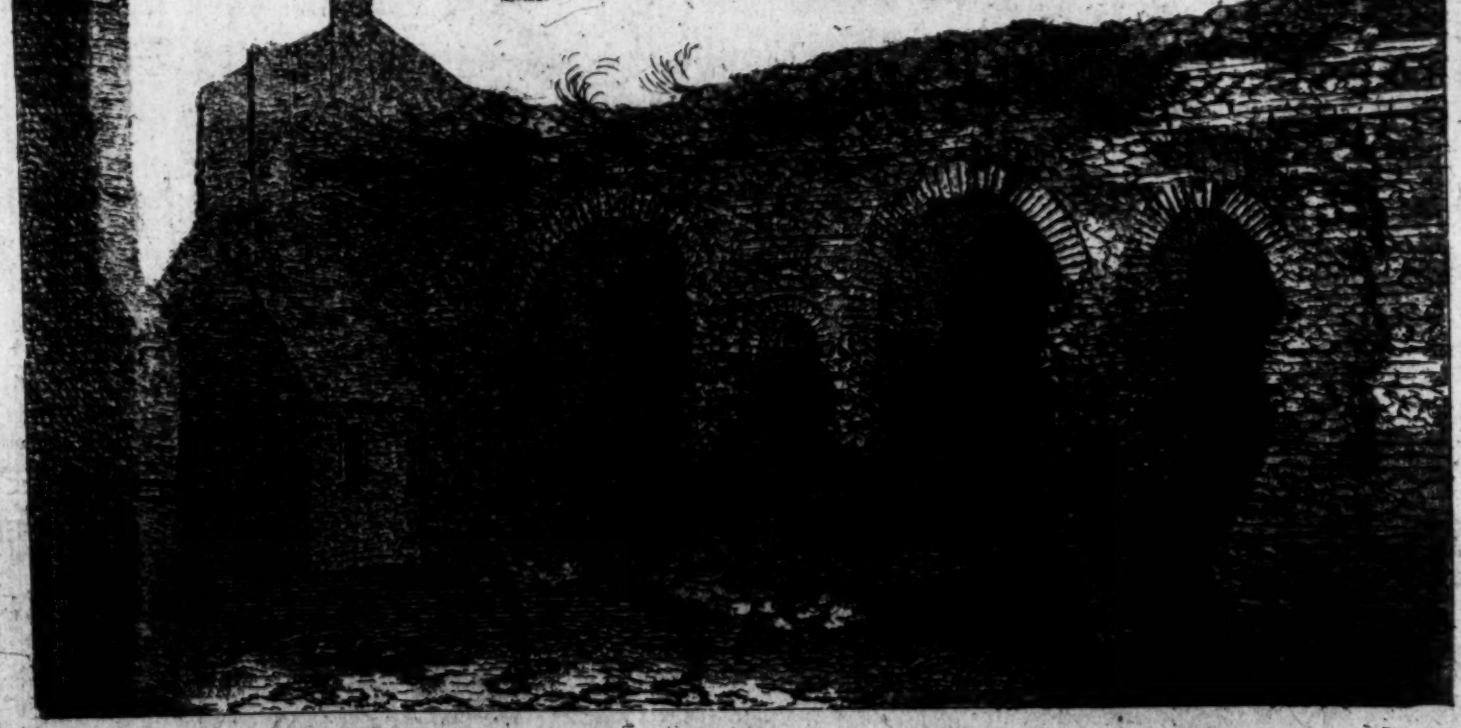
E: of Leicester. 1791



4



5



JEWRY WALL.

by the name of Jewry-wall is the remains of that Temple. Cart, the hiſtorian, ſeems to ſmile at the opinion, and advances poſitively, that he has no tolerable reaſon to ſupport it. In a place called Holy-Bones, near the ruin, it has been uſual to dig up bones of beaſts in large quantities, which have led numbers to conjecture, and others to aſſert, that the inhabitants of theſe parts, antecedent to the invaſion of the Romans, ſacrificed here. " As to the remains of a Britiſh " Temple at Leiceſter," ſays *Salmon*, " we may content ourſelves " without ſeeing, when even the religious houſes, ſo majeſtic and ex- " preſſive of the later age are no more to be ſeen; but—*Ipſæ periere* " *Ruinæ*—Yet ſome traces of this Britiſh Temple may be found in " the place called Holy-Bones, where the bones of Oxen ſacrificed " have been frequently, upon digging, turned up. Theſe muſt have " been brought hither for ſacrifice, and nothing elſe. Where we " find the name of a Temple, and the reliques of their worſhip ſo ap- " parently together, we have all the evidence the nature of the " thing admits."

I need not apologize for introducing an abſtract from Mr. Cart's (*a*) MSS. now in the Bodlean Library. " I cannot but wonder (ſays " that Gentlemen,) at what Mr. Burton writes concerning Janus' " Temple here; that which he ſo calls, is commonly known by the " name of Jewry-Wall. It is at the weſt end of St. Nicholas' Church- " yard, and what remains of it, ſerves for a wall; yet it was, as I " doubt not, a building that took up a great deal of the area of the " Church yard, and the materials of it were, in a great meaſure, " made uſe of in building that Church; as appears by the Britiſh, or " Roman bricks or tiles, viſible in the walls of it. It is difficult to " judge now what the uſe of it was: but I am apt to think it was of " the ſame nature with the Wery-Wall in Lancaſter, or the old works " in Worceſter; and if one had an opportunity of viewing all theſe " and comparing them together, one might, perhaps, make a pro- " bable gueſs at their uſe (*b*).

" The

(*a*) Formerly Vicar of St. Martin's Leiceſter.

(*b*) Mr. Cart not deſcribing theſe Walls, I have collected the following pariculars from Camden reſpecting

" The remains of it (continues he) are about 28 yards long; and " on the outſide the height of it is about 9 or 10 yards, raiſed up by " ſeveral ſtrata of rough foreſt ſtone, and of brick or tile, (I will call " it brick) each brick is about 18 inches long, 15 broad, and about " 2 inches thick or thereabouts, for ſome are bigger and ſome leſs. " The mortar between the bricks is full as thick as the bricks. I rec- " kon 17 ſtrata in the following order.

" 1 — 4 Rows of ſtone 27 inches high.
" 2 — 3 Rows of brick about 10 inches high.
" 3 — 3 Rows of ſtone 18 inches high.
" 4 — 3 Rows of brick 8 inches high.
" 5 — 4 Rows of ſtone 23 inches high.
" 6 — 3 Rows of brick.
" 7 — 4 Rows of ſtone.
" 8 — 3 Rows of brick.
" 9 — 3 Rows of ſtone.
" 10 — 3 Rows of brick.
" 11 — 3 Rows of ſtone.
" 12 — 3 Rows of brick.
" 13 — 4 Rows of ſtone, above here it is defaced, but there ſeems to be
" 14 — 3 Rows of bricks.
" 15 — 4 Rows of ſtone.
" 16 — 3 Rows of brick.
" 17 — 4 Rows of ſtone.

"In

ſpecting them. In the Article Lancaſter, after mentioning a Church there, he ſays, " A little beneath " which, by a fair bridge over Lone, in the deſcent and ſide of the hill where it is ſteepeſt, hangeth a " piece of moſt antient Wall of Roman work ſeeming ready to reel; Wery-Wall they call it after a later " Britiſh name, as it ſhould ſeem of this town. For they called it Caer Werid, as one would ſay, The " green City, happily of that freſh green hill. But I leave this to others." Under the article Worceſter after mentioning ſome coins found there, he ſays, " Beſides them I ſaw nothing of antiquity but in one " place ſome parcels of broken Walls, (which the common people call the old Work of Worceſter.) This " Wall was built of rough ſtone, diſtinguiſhed outwardly with ſeven rows of Britiſh bricks in equal diſtan- " ces, and brought up in Arched work inwardly. I conjecture, by the uneven ground, by the rampires " and the rubbiſh of the wall here and there on either ſide, that the Caſtle ſtood in that very place where " theſe ruins remain.

" In the wall near the middle, at 5 yards diſtance from each " other, there are two large arches, which ſerved for entrances into " it, about three yards wide, and four yards and a half high; there " are alſo ſeveral holes in the wall about ſix inches ſquare, viz. " in the third, ſixth, ninth, thirteenth, and ſeventeenth ſtratum. The " holes in this laſt are as large again as the other, and paſs quite " through the wall, whereas the firſt do not appear to be ſo, though " there are ſome holes like them on the inſide. The wall on the " inſide has no facing, as being broke off roughly from the parts that " were continued to it, and conſiſts of four arches: The two largeſt " are in the middle, and in part anſwer the two on the outſide which " were made for entrances, but are made larger within, and the en- " trances are not in the middle of them. In the column between " theſe two great arches there appears the remainder of an arch- " work which ſeems to be made for reverberating heat, and in all " the inſide the blackneſs of the ſtones and bricks retain plain indi- " cations of fire and ſmoke. The two other arches are near as " high in ſhape, are much like the other, but not ſo large.

" In the ſouth arch a poor woman has a little houſe who ſhewed " me two ſtones, now placed in the outer moſt wall of her houſe, " which ſhe ſaid, ſhe was informed, were taken out of the arch with- " in her houſe, and placed where they now are. That though the " perſon living there was not at home, yet perſons of viſibility might " ſee them. One of them is in the exact form of a croſs; it is 13 " inches over, and the breadth of each of the four arms at the de- " creſſation is four inches; and at the end ſix or ſeven. The other " ſtone has a croſs made and it is about ten inches long.

" I ſomewhat doubt of the truth of the woman's relation as to the " place where the ſtones were taken out, becauſe I can diſcover no " ſuch formed ſtones in any part of the work."

As this deſcription was taken, at leaſt ſeventy years ago, it neceſſarily behoves me to ſhew, wherein its preſent ſtate differs from the above: whether from decay, or error. Some years ago, I publiſhed my obſervations on this ruin, and as it is now nearly in the

ſame ſtate it was at that time, I here chuſe to republiſh it as the beſt account I can give of it. I at that time examined the woman, who at preſent occupies the little dwelling ſpoken of above, if ſhe had ever ſeen, or been aſked for two particular ſtones I deſcribed to her; but was unable to learn any thing from her reſpecting them. I then examined the inſide of her abode, but to no purpoſe: but on my ſtrictly examining the outſide I found the laſt-mentioned nearly covered with mortar; which I ſoon picked off, with a trowel, to the extremity of the ſtone on all ſides.

For the inſpection of the curious reader I have procured an engraving of this ſtone, and added to it ſomething like Mr. Cart's drawing, which he made with his pen, of the other*(a)*.

The length and the height of the Jewry-wall ſeem to have undergone no material alteration ſince Mr. Cart's time. The front of the broken part towards the little dwelling, muſt be ſuffering almoſt daily by the heedleſs boys who play in the church-yard; and who, to ſhew their dexterity in climbing, often obtain the ſummit by the help of the projecting ſtones. It is a pity both for the boys ſafety and the preſervation of this antiquity, that their little ruthleſs limbs ſhould be ſuffered to aſſiſt in annihilating a ſubject that has, for ages, reſiſted the ſeparating hand of time.

The ſouth arch, wherein the woman lives, ſeems to be of the ſame magnitude as the ſecond and fourth. The ſecond is thirteen feet high and twelve feet wide. The third is a little jutting arch four feet over. The fourth is the ſame as the ſecond. The fifth is 12 feet by 6.

There are ſome few errors in Mr. Cart's admeaſurement of the layers of brick and ſtone, or elſe I did not find where he meaſured. When I had gained admittance into the garden on the weſt ſide, where I made a drawing of an arch that ſeems to have been over the entrance, I there found the wall, in its thickeſt part, to be ſeven feet over. This front, has a very different appearance to the view in the church-yard: its ſurface ſomewhat indicates the out-ſide of a building; and has only two arches, and they do not in the leaſt project

(*a*) See Plate I. fig. 4, 5.

ject from the wall, as on the other ſide. Theſe arches I take to have been the entrances, they are made with two rows of brick, as you ſee deſcribed in *Pl.* II. *fig.* 1. and they are ſingularly curious of their kind. In every part of this wall, on this ſide in particular, the mortar takes up as much ſpace as the brick: the reaſon of which, I take it to be is, its being made of gravel inſtead of ſand. On this ſide, the layers of brick and ſtone are in the following order, from the ſurface of the ground.

1 — 4 Rows of ſtone 22 inches high,
2 — 3 —— of brick 10 in:
3 — 3 —— of ſtone 18 in:
4 — 3 —— of brick 10 in:
5 — 5 —— of ſtone 2 feet
6 — 3 —— of brick 10 in:
7 — 4 —— of ſtone 22 in:
8 — 3 —— of brick 9 in:
9 — 3 —— of ſtone 12 in:
10 — 3 —— of brick 9 in:
11 — 2 —— of ſtone 11 in:
12 — 3 —— of brick 9 in:
13 — 3 —— of ſtone 15 in:

Above which are about ſix feet of ragged ſtone and brick, whoſe front, or conjoined parts, are gone.

Being deſirous of learning ſomething that might lead to a diſcovery of its former magnitude (for I fear its uſe will never be diſcovered by the moſt ſagacious antiquary) I employed ſome workmen to dig, on the eaſt ſide, tranſverſely, and in a right direction with the wall, thinking to find a foundation, which I intended to have traced to its extent; but it no where continued a foot beyond the projecting parts.

The late Mr. Bickerſtaff, ſpeaking of this place concludes thus.— "In this wall over narrow diameters of ſeemingly imperfect furnaces, are wide and high arches, ſtrongly blackened like the under "parts, and edged abruptly as a ruin; probably a place for ſacrifice, "correſponding with the holy bones," (a place near) "It was not "unuſual,

" unuſual, in early times, to convert heathen temples into chriſtian " churches; or to raiſe on their ſite, places for the worſhip of the " true GOD."

Furthermore, concerning the antiquity of Leiceſter: a multitude of writers have teſtified that there were antiently in Britian twenty eight flamins, and three arch flamins, placed in twenty-eight cities, and theſe upon the converſion of the Britians to chriſtianity; about the year 180, after the birth of Chriſt, were made Biſhop-ſees. The words of the venerable Bede are " Britania viginti et octo cinitatibus " quondam nobiliſſimis erat inſignita." Gildas ſays " Brittania de- " corata bis denes bisque quaternis Cinitatibus." Ninnius, the monk of Bangor, who lived about the year of Chriſt, 620, gave a particular account of theſe cities, one of which was Cair-Lerion, ſignifying the city of King Leir, now Leiceſter. Thus much is given upon the teſtimony and credit of reputable authors.

The opinions therefore of antient writers ſeem to agree, that Leiceſter had its name from a King Leir, and that it is of great antiquity: that it flouriſhed long in the time of the antient Britians, and afterwards was of great import in the time of the Romans, according to Camden, by the name of Ratæ: and in ſupport of his opinion the ſtone found near Thurmaſton turnpike, and ſome time ſince placed where formerly ſtood the alms-houſes, called the Cock-muck-hill, fully demonſtrate it. The ſtone was found in the year 1771, near the old foſs road, by workmen digging for gravel. It ſerved as a baſe to a large milliare; its height three feet ſix inches, and in circumference five feet ſeven inches; the inſcription is reckoned the moſt antient in Britain. (See the annexed plate) The following account of the ſtone William Bray Eſq. communicated to the ſociety of Antiquaries in 1781.

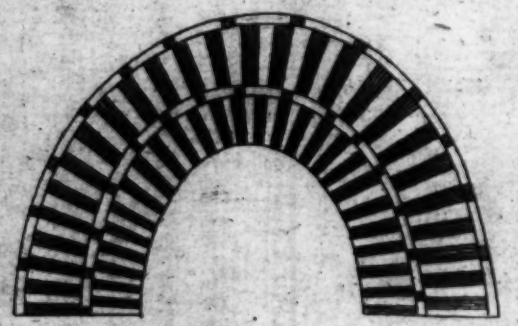
" Although antiquaries in general agree in ſuppoſing that Leiceſter is the *Ratæ Coritanorum* of the Romans, yet Camden and Biſhop Gibſon (*a*) ſpeak of it with ſome doubt. Horſley ſays it is undoubtedly and endeavours to fix it by the diſtance between *Venonæ*, *Ratæ*, and *Verumetum*, as mentioned in the Itinerary (*b*). Stukeley affirms it, without

(*a*) Vol. I. p. 415. (*b*) P. 437.

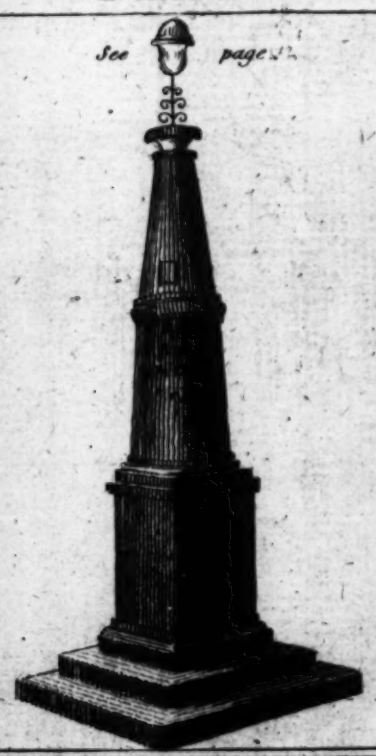

G.R.
III.

Plate II.

Fig 1.

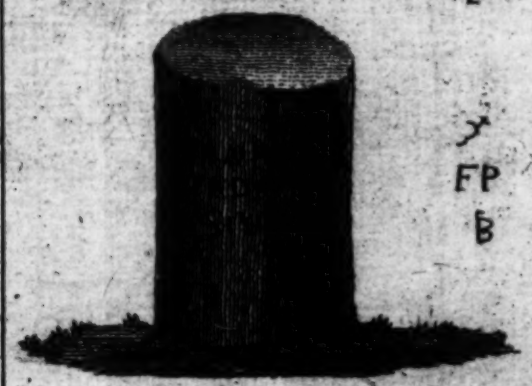


2. *See page 12.*



3.

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DIVTRAIANPARHIS DI
RAIANVHADRIA-NAVG
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B

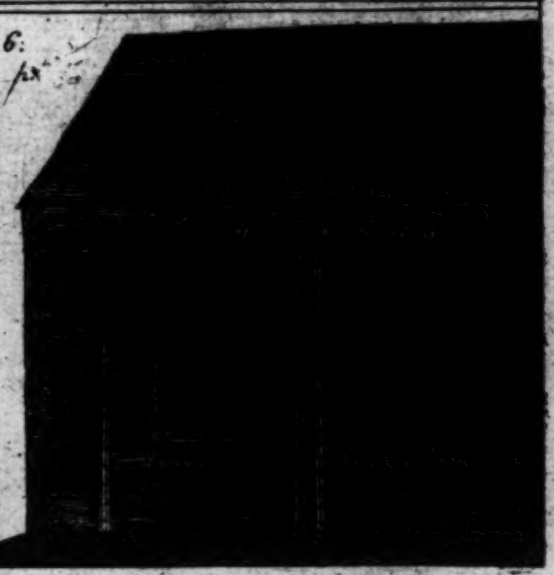
4.



5. *p. 13.*



6. *p.*



without aſſigning any other reaſon. A milliary ſtone has however been lately diſcovered, which demonſtrates the certainty of it. The Foſs way from Venonæ to Newark on Trent leaves the town of Leiceſter a little on the right, croſſes the river Soar beyond Belgrave, and comes into what is now the turnpike road from Leiceſter to Melton Mowbray, a little before it reaches the village of Thurmaſton, beyond which the turnpike leaves it, and goes off on the right, but the Foſs way continues in a ſtraight line to Newark. On the ſide of this road where the turnpike is carried along the Foſs way, about two miles beyond Leiceſter, there was a kind of ſtepping block, little noticed; but in mending the road about the year 1773, they removed the earth that was round it, and by ſo doing diſcovered a ſtone lying at the foot of it, for which it had ſerved as a pedeſtal. This was two feet ten inches long, five feet five inches and an half in circumference.——(On it is the inſcription *Fig.* 3, in the annexed plate.) The ſtone is of the gritty ſort, ſuppoſed by maſons to be from a quarry in Derbyſhire. It is preſerved in the garden of the turnpike houſe near the place where it was found. The letters in the upper line are four inches long; in the others but three. The ſecond and third lines ſeem to have been continued round it, ſome traces of letters being viſible on the back part. The two ſtrokes at bottom, probably denote the diſtances from *Ratæ* or Leiceſter, with which it agrees, being about two miles. It ſeems to be rather extraordinary that Camden ſhould be at a loſs to diſcover the ſtreet-way from Leiceſter to Lincoln, as it is ſtill viſible in many places, is well known in the country, and goes in a ſtraight line from Thrumaſton to Newark on Trent. It is paſſable on horſeback in a dry ſeaſon, but is bad to travel on after rain."

" Whether the figure in the fifth line ſtands for II or III miles, it determines," ſays Mr. Nichols, " the antient name of Leiceſter to have been *Ratæ* and not *Rage*." " I imagine," obſerves Mr. Bickerſtaff, " the ſeeming H to be two ones, or miles from Leiceſter, the ſtone might have been brought nearer Leiceſter than where it was firſt erected, before it was interred, if the place of its diſcovery was

ſhort of two Roman miles. The Town wall which ran parallel with the eaſt gate muſt be more than the third of a mile to the end of Humberſtone-gate." Many have lamented the injury that this ſtone has ſuſtained and is likely to ſuſtain by its removal, and by its reparation. For alas! in the parts injured by time a ſtone maſon was employed to fill up the venerable tokens of old age with new ſtone. Does the human form, in its declining years, want aid to make it more reſpectable or venerable? Mr. Nichols, my friend, who admires every thing that bears a trace of antiquity, ſeems, as it were, to drop a tear over this relic when he ſays " However well-meant the placing of it in this ſituation may have been, the total loſs muſt eventually be the conſequence. The parts damaged by the workmen, when it was firſt diſcovered, are aukwardly ſupplied by modern maſonry, whereby the chain of the inſcription is much interrupted; and, by being placed too low, ſeveral of the letters are much defaced, and the rude ſcratches of modern Vandals will probably in no long time eclipſe every trace of antiquity."

The following inſcription was placed over this pillar, in braſs, at the expence of the Corporation of Leiceſter. " This Roman mileſtone was found in the road near Leiceſter, and placed here at the expence of the Corporation at large, in the mayoralty of James Biſhop, Eſq. in 1783."

For my own part my reſearches have been confined to things which require no great depth of penetration to diſcover, and no ſage judgement to deliver: out of the habit of giving an opinion of the handle of a coffin, the jaw bone of modern giants; of braſs coins, bearing on their delectable faces the great antiquity of a hundred years: of nice admeaſurements of an ordinary bridge; of common incruſtations on a ſtraw; and of every excreſcence on the face of the field deſcribing, from the mighty mole-hill to the ſize of a wart on a man's thumb. I have not at all times been ſerious in churches that I have viſited: I have often ſmiled at the gravity of our Topographers who have been wonderfully particular, about the death of infants, a ſpan long; and no leſs ſo about the

dimenſions

dimenſions of an ordinary village chapel, cracked bells, pewter diſhes for the ſacrament, particularizing the *church-wardens* names thereon, and altar-pieces as wooden as a ſtump-and-rail carpenter could make them. I have, however, often lamented the ſhameful neglect of the coffin of Richard III. which was long ſuffered, by my Townſmen to remain, and be deſtroyed, in an Inn yard in this place,—and more ſo, the abuſe of that venerable pillar, now ſet up and *honoured* with a place formerly a dunghill, fixed like a poor wretch in a pillory, who endures the abuſe of the rabble, and the butt of boys, by being pelted at with ſtones and filth. Abuſed as it has been by patching, ſcratching &c. I covet, however, to live to ſee the day when it may be removed from the place it now honours, (by the ſage judgement of ſome worthy magiſtrate,) to a place for its preſervation. A corner in the Cook's kitchen at the Town-hall, would be preferable to the place where it is now erected; it would then be in the company of good things at leaſt once a year; but now alas! its fate is pitiable.

Another object of antiquity, relative to Leiceſter, is the Foſs or Roman Route, about the courſe of which, writers diſagree. (*a*) But before

(*a*) The following is from an old M. S. with no writer's name. I give it that the reader may compare it with the two ſucceeding Articles; particularly that of the Foſs.

" The Itinerary of Antonine the Emperor, appointed by him for the uſe of his ſoldiers, his prætors, and proconſuls, for the furtherance of their marching into and through the Provinces, contain the removes and diſtance from one Garriſon or Station to another. The ſixth ſtage, or march, in this Itinerary was from Londinio *(London)* to Lindum *(Lincoln)* 156 miles, thus, Verolamium, *(Verulam)* 21 miles. Durocobrium, *(Dunſtable)* 12. Magiovin, *(Magiouin)* 12. Lactodorum, *(Stoney-Stratford)* 16. Iſanavatia, *(Wedon)* 12. Tripontium, *(Towceſter)* 12. Vennones, *(High Croſs)* 9. Ratas, *(Leiceſter)* 12. Verometum, *(Burrow)* 13. Margidun, *(Belvoir)* 13. Adpontem, *(Paunton)* 7. Crococolana, *(Ancaſter)* 7. Lindum, *(Lincoln)* 12."

" Ratæ or Ratas, certainly the name for Leiceſter in thoſe days; and that by reaſon of its Situation upon the Military ffoſs way, and the true porportion of diſtance, that it holds between Benones now High Croſs, or Claybrook, an old Town near it, and Vernometum, which was a noted Station on the other ſide at the Town now called Burrow, where at the place called Burrow-Hill, are ſtill the remains, or Veſtiges of a very great Fort, or Camp-place: And this old name Ratæ twinkles a little, as Mr. Cambden conceives, in Ra-dikes or Raw-dikes, as if it ſhould be meant thereby the Rampire, or Ditch of the Ratæ: probably a ſort of Soldiers of that Agnomination, but whether from their Country, Weapons, diſcipline, or other Caſuall Occurrence now uncertain. For it is more than probable, that that huge Ditch Rampire, or Trench (ſo called without the South-gate of Leiceſter) was made for ſome defence to the Roman

before we proceed to notice that memorable courſe, we will make a little mention of the encampment within about 3 miles of Leiceſter; on that ſide of the Town where the Foſs runs; and Raw-dikes juſt without Leiceſter; both doubtleſs of high antiquity. The Barrow as it is called, at Ratby, extends over more than 9 acres of land. Desford lies on the South Weſt-Angle, and Ratby, near it, on the North Eaſt. It commands an extenſive proſpect of country. The deſcent on the North ſide forms rather a deep declivity. Tradition has handed down that on it once ſtood a Caſtle, and that a door or gate was taken away from it before the Conqueſt, which has been uſed at Ratby Church ever ſince. It is curiouſly wrought with Iron.

The late Mr. Tho. Lee, of Leiceſter, to whoſe memory I ſhall ever pay due deference, once obſerved to me that he thought Ratby, the name of a village about 4 miles from Leiceſter, and Ratæ, bore ſome analogy to each other; Ratby, he conceived might be a corruption of *by Ratæ*. I have particularly noticed the Roman encampment near Ratby in "The Excurſions in Leiceſterſhire:" and ſince then, I have been favoured by Mr Everard, ſchool-maſter, of Braunſton, with a ground plan and accurate admeaſurement of this encampment.

"This" ſays Mr. Everard, "is a ſurvey of a Roman encampment in a cloſe adjoining Ratby field, occupied by Mr. Wm. Geary of the old Hays. The ſlope, from the top of the bank to the bottom of the ditch, is 39 1*hf.* feet."

"Area 9 acres 31 perches within the bank; including the ditch, area 11 acres 2 roods and 10 perches. This was done in Sep. 1790."

Although this place has been but little noticed, it is a great and genuine piece of antiquity, and doubtleſs of the age of our Roman dikes near Leiceſter. We will therefore proceed to the article Raw-dikes, or as they are called in Leiceſter,

ROW-DIKES.

man Camp or Station there Sett. I can never view this work without paying a due reſpect, as well to the Roman memory, as to their Singular and un-exampled Induſtry, and Ingenuity in Compaſſing and erecting ſuch vaſt, and laſting Monuments; the very relicks of which, even in their moſt deformed Ruins, move Reverence and aſtoniſhment in the Beholder, whilſt the Vulgar Celebrate them as the works of Giants."

ROW DIKES.

This is another ſtupendous work of the period we now ſpeak of: it has long deſervedly called forth public attention. The Banks or Rampire of this ditch, I am of an opinion, were once of great magnitude, compared with their preſent appearance: for if you reckon that by diſmemberment, viz. turf-getting, filling up holes in grounds near, ſoil for gardens, and many other purpoſes for which it is and has been dug up, allowing that it leſſens only one eighth of an inch in a year, in height; you will find that in 1500 years it has diminiſhed upwards of five yards. The particular uſe of this ditch is not known. Dr. Stukely conſidered Row-Dikes as a Britiſh Curſus; but Camden thinks its name bears a little analogy to Ratæ, the antient name of Leiceſter, *i. e.* the Rampire or ditch of the Ratæ. That part of the ditch neareſt Leiceſter, appears to be a work of after times; but I will not hazard an opinion, at the ſiege of Leiceſter(*a*). However, be that as it may, a common obſerver, who compares this part of the Rampire with that neareſt to the village of Ailſtone, will find that the former poſſeſſes not thoſe evident marks of old age as the latter.

The late Mr. Bickerſtaff, took an accurate admeaſurement of theſe dikes, and found the length to be upwards of 667 yards.

THE FOSS

Or Roman road, which paſſes thro' the heart of Leiceſterſhire, and cloſe by the weſtern part or thro' the Town of Leiceſter, is another work of great antiquity. It's remains are viſible in many parts of Leiceſterſhire, and it has been pretty accurately traced by various antiquaries, altho' ſome little difference in their opinions appears. Writers on this ſubject, in general, ſhew that it interſected the Watlingſtreet Roman Road, at *High Croſs*, in this county; and

(*a*) Simonds in his account of that ſiege ſays that "They did not raiſe any works during the parley." which implies that they had done or intended to do ſo. See page 14, vol. Views.

took its courſe thence in a right line between the village of *Sharnford* and *Froleſworth*; ſo on towards *Narborough*, leaving that village a little on the left, taking nearly a middle courſe between *Ailſtone* and *Braunſtone*; then paſſing by the upper end of the Paddock of *Weſtcoats*, and the garden of *Danet's Hall*, to *Ratæ*, *Leiceſter*. From or by *Leiceſter*, thro' *Thurmaſtone*; near *Syſton* and *Ratcliff on the Wreek*, leaving both the latter on the right; then to *Seg's hill* for Newark in Nottinghamſhire.

The following M. S. is from a very reſpectable quarter, given only as an opinion; perhaps from the niceſt obſervation in paſſing over this *Roman Road*. Altho' it may claſh in ſome particulars with the opinions of ſeveral preceeding writers, it recommends the Author to our notice as a Gentleman of learning, ingenuity and candour; and ſhews us that the ſubject of which he treats, is far from being exhauſted by the hoſt of learned antiquaries, who have antecedently given their opinions on the ſame ſubject.

"The firſt Station from Lincoln was Crococolana, probably Brough. We ſaw an Urn, a Spear and other Roman Antiquities found there. Collingham, where ſome Antiquarians would ſend us, is too far out of the road, and in this Iter at leaſt, it is probable that no Station was out of the road at all; *for the Number of miles from Leiceſter to Lincoln by the Foſſe at preſent, agrees exactly to the ſpecified diſtance in both Antonine and Richard, between Ratæ and Lindum formerly: which makes it impoſſible for the Romans to have gone to any Station much either to the right or left of the preſent Road.* Suppoſing then, Crococolana to be Brough, the next Station is ad Pontem, 7 miles, and paſſing through Newark to Thorpe Bar, is a ſituation very like one: the Trent comes cloſe to the Road which makes a Bend, (one of the Marks of a Station) to that Point: the diſtance anſwers exactly; and directly oppoſite on the other ſide of the river 4 miles off is Southwell, where Roman Antiquities have been found, and which was called by the Saxons Tiovulfingaceaſter, a termination given almoſt excluſively to Roman Cities. At Southwell then, might be the Roman Town, a Bridge near the Trent connected it with

with the Foſſe, and (Newark then not exiſting) it was a great paſs into Nottinghamſhire. At the ſouthern end of the Bridge, on the high bank of the river, was perhaps a ſmall Station or Fort to protect it, which would be called the *Statio ad pontem*, as the Statio ad Anſam ad Trivonam, and others in the Itineraries. And perhaps this Idea will reconcile the jarring numbers of Antonine and Richard, one of them ſtopping at the Bridge, and therefore calling it *ſeven* Miles from Crococolana; the other croſſing to the City, and thence putting it down at *twelve*. When the Caſtle at Newark was built in King Stephen's time, both Crococolana and ad Pontem would be robbed of their Materials; both lying ſo near and ſo convenient for Water carriage, which will account for there being no Remains diſtinguiſhable at either of them(*a*)."

"Our next Station is *Margidunum* — miles. Eaſt Bridgford, where abundant Remains have been found, anſwers exactly: another proof that ad Pontem is where we placed it. A little beyond Bridgford, the Turnpike to Nottingham turns off to the right; but the Foſſe though now unfrequented, continues its Name and Courſe over the Wolds per vaſta plana, as old Higden calls it, to Willoughby."

"Near Willoughby in the neighbourhood of Over and Nether Broughton, Stukely fixes a Station. Coins have been found there. The diſtance anſwers to *Vernometum*, but Stukely miſtakes the name and ſuppoſes it Margidunum, an error which has cauſed many others in his work, and which is the more unaccountable as in conſequence of it he has no place for Vernometum at all, and ſuppoſes it to be ſomewhere or another, (he dont pretend to gueſs where,) out of the Road."

"The moſt remarkable place beyond Willoughby is Segs or Sex Hill, where is a Barrow, and ſeems to have been a ſmall Station not noticed by the Itineraries, and where a large Roman Road croſſes the Foſſe in a direction from little Cheſter Derventis near Derby, towards Grantham or the Towns on the Ermen Street. The Foſſe

(*a*) Raſtall, from much ingenious reaſoning, the diſcovery of Roman coins, and from antient and reſpectable authority, fixes the Roman ad Pontem, afterwards the Tiovulfingaceſter of the Saxons at Southwell.

ſtill continues without a poſſibility of miſtaking it, being extremely broad, and ſometimes raiſed, till it meets the Melton Road about 4 miles from Leiceſter. Here the Turnpike as uſual, and the neighbouring great Town has deſtroyed it. But in making the preſent road a Pedeſtal was diſcovered, and near it a Mile ſtone (See Archæologia, vol. vii.) (*a*) bearing an inſcription that it was three Miles a Ratis: as the milliary Stone in the Forum was marked I it was in fact not quite two, and to this its ſituation better agrees. The Stone is ſtill in the pig market at Leiceſter(*b*), and the Pedeſtal left covered in the High Road which therefore goes certainly in the Track of the old Foſſe."

" Here our excurſion along Maſon's road by Medbourn came in.

" We now returned to Leiceſter by a different way, and reſumed our ſurvey on the Foſſe. The Temple of Janus as it is called, appears to me the Janua of the old City. The more I examine it the more my Idea is confirmed. The Foſſe went out at it, and in the meadow between the Temple of Janus and the old Bridge, over which King Richard was carried, (a circumſtance which ſhews it was the old entrance to the Town) the traces of it are very apparent(*c*). A Roman Bridge I have no doubt ſtood on the very Spot of this Saxon one, which is now walled up and neglected. The Foſſe after paſſing the Bridge, bore a little way full weſt, perhaps to

(*a*) Mr. Bray in Archæol. differs from me in the milliary Inſcription. I ſtill think it is III a Ratis, and that H at the bottom is the mark of the cohort mentioned in Horſeley. We differ alſo in idea of the Foſſe, which he thinks *did not* paſs through Leiceſter.

(*b*) In the mayoralty of Mr. Ald. Biſhop, I ſuppoſe the writer of the above made the remark of a pig-market being kept in the open place where the ſtone ſtands: that magiſtrate in vain attempted to eſtabliſh a market there: pigs are obſtinate animals; but their owners in this caſe were much more ſo.

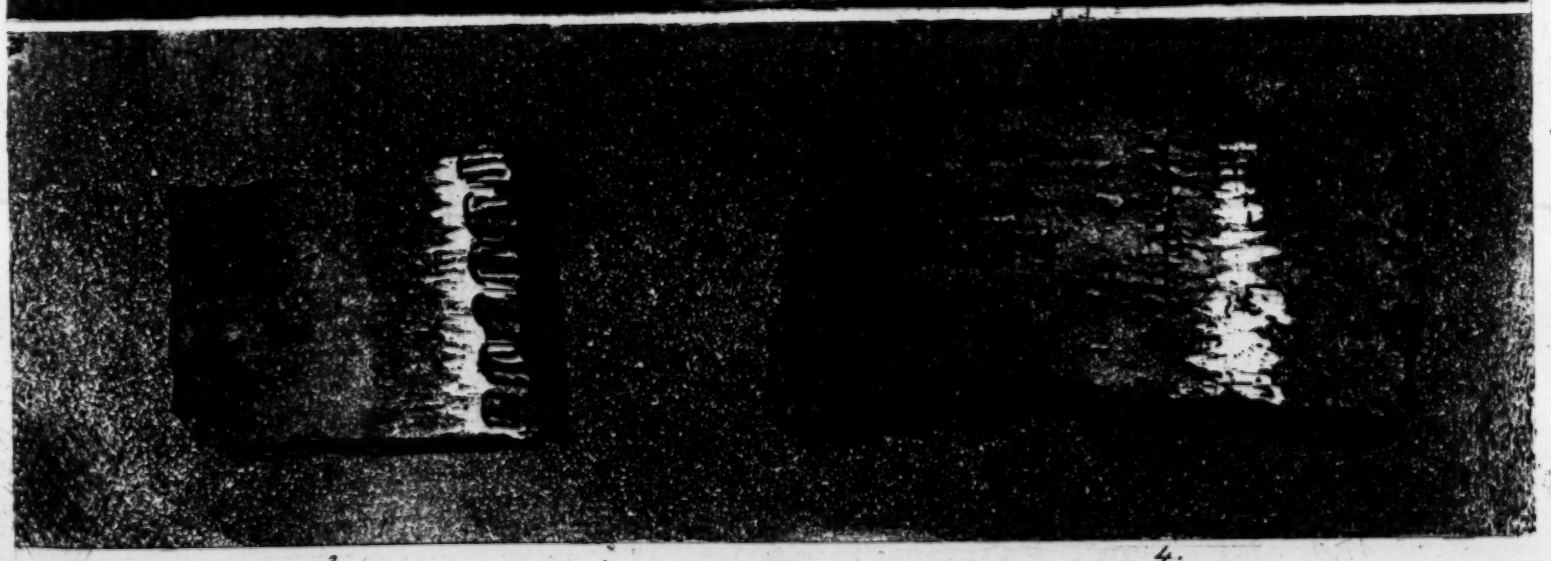
(*c*) The Meadow this Gentlemen ſpeaks of is the place where the Auguſtine Friars ſtood; now called *Bruce's Friars*. Peck has deceived many: in his *Deſiderata Curioſa* he has given an engraving of *Bow-Bridge*, on which he has placed a hoſt of ſoldiers, horſe and foot, marching with the body of poor king Dick to its burial in the Auguſtine Friars, near the Bridge. Peck certainly never ſaw the bridge or ſuch an abſurdity as that print would never have appeared. The bridge is only three feet wide; and was doubtleſs made as a foot paſſage over the river. The King was buried in the church of the Grey Friars in another part of the Town, where an alabaſter monument was placed to his memory by Henry VII.

G.R. III.
BRITISH MUSEUM

East view, without the hut.







3. 4.

considered as the *Jewry Wall*, Janua of the old City.

to clear the walls of the Town; a Moſaic Pavement on the left ſhewing us it extended farther than it does at preſent, and then turning directly South regains both its old Name and Direction, and bears right for Vennones or Cleycheſter."

A long reſidence in Leiceſter, and at times having paid ſome attention to its hiſtory, tempts me to ſay ſomething more of Jewry Wall, about which, in the above account of the Foſſe, the writer has given ſome new and ſenſible remarks never before publiſhed,

It is this Gentleman's opinion, we find, that the Ruin we call Janus Temple was the Janua or gate of the City; and that there was a Roman Bridge which led into the city, over the river, at the ſame place where now ſtands what is generally called bow-bridge. I believe it has long been a received opinion that the river which runs by or ſkirts the weſt ſide of Leiceſter is the old river Leir, now Soar, and *that* which is called the back river was cut about the time that the Lancaſter Hoſpital was built. But if the contrary be the caſe; that the former is the modern cut, and the latter the old river Leir, which I have been lately convinced is true, then nothing, in my opinion, is more likely than that in the time of the Romans there was a bridge over the old river, where Bow Bridge now ſtands, and that, in a right line with *Jewry Wall*; the ſuppoſed Janua of the Roman City.

Whoever looks at the preſent ſtreets at the weſt end of the Town will not diſcover the leaſt traces of a Roman Road: the zigzag direction, from one to the other, is inimical to the idea we entertain of their lineal paſſages from and through one Station to another. The ſpace before the Rev. Mr. Andrews's houſe cannot eaſily be accounted for, but upon the ſcore of the gate of the antient City and wall continuing from the South end of the ruin, right acroſs that broad way to the houſe known by the name of the recruiting ſerjeant, where the Jewry wall has recently been proved to have continued, by the diſcovery of its foundation made of the like materials and thickneſs: near which was found, at the ſame time, a fine roman coin, of the Emperor Maximilian.

This

This conjecture in no ſhape takes from the opinion page 2, that a great Temple once ſtood near the ſcite of St. Nicholas' church. Churches where frequently built upon the ſcite of heathen temples, and on old Roman roads: the former practice evidently for the materials, and the latter, perhaps for a foundation and ſometimes elevation. *Cart*, the hiſtorian, tells us of a church which ſtood near St. Nicholas', in a place called the holy-bones, which was demoliſhed about the time of the conqueſt; dedicated to Columbus and Auguſtine. Perhaps that and St, Nicholas' were both built out of the ruins of the Temple.

A word or two more reſpecting the Janua of the old City. Roman walls near the grand entrance into cities, frequently had ſuch niches as are preſerved in this wall, whence people have concluded that they are the remains of temples. However, the argument againſt the temple and for a gate is in ſome meaſure done away, by the diſcovery of an old wall leading towards the river, in the cellar of the *Talbot Inn*, mentioned above, page 2.

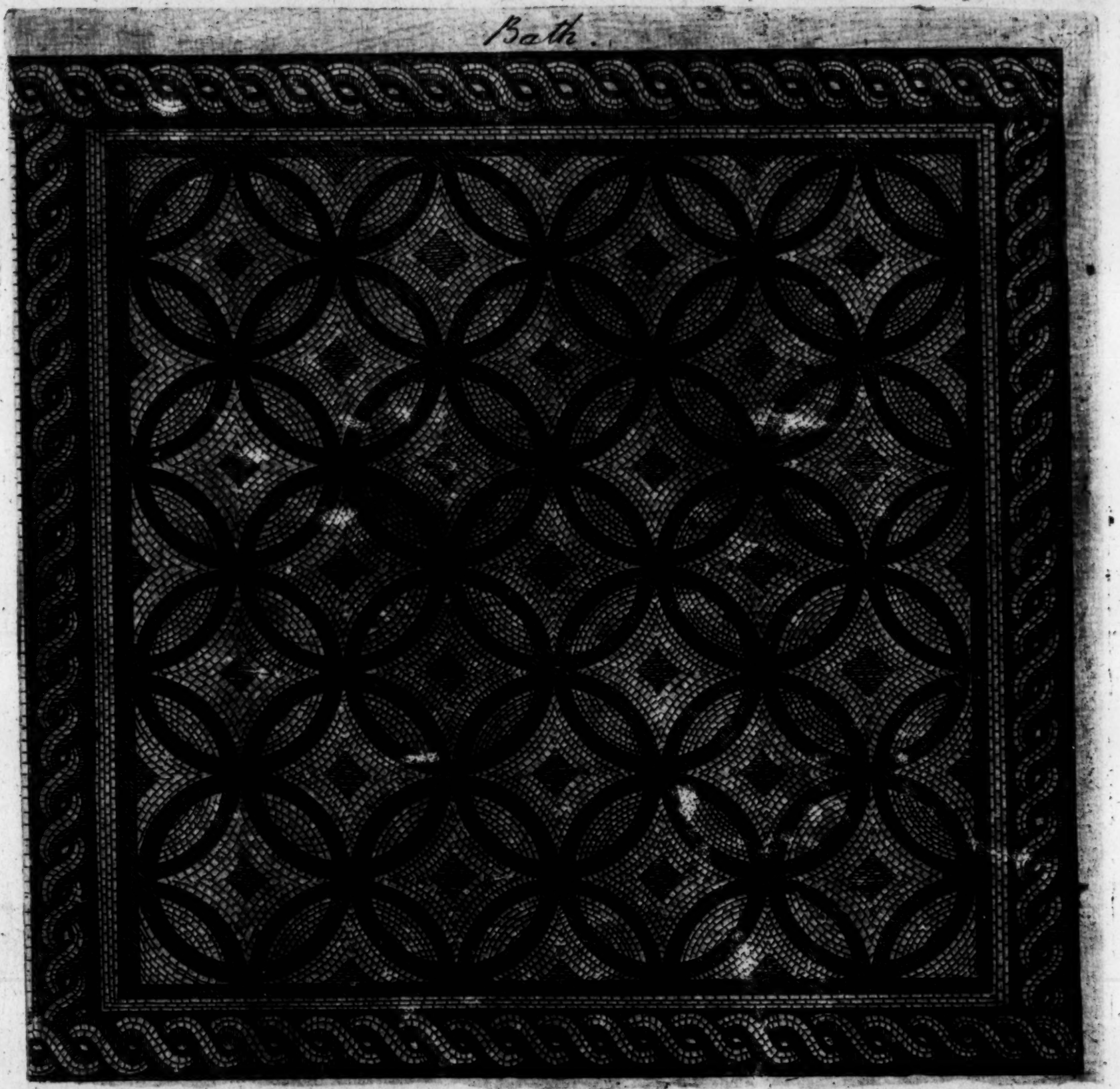
I cannot diſmiſs this ſubject without mentioning Mr. Bickerſtaff's opinion of this wall. He obſerved once to me, on reading that a Duke of Lancaſter expelled the jews from Leiceſter, that the *Jewry Wall* might be the Fornaces or fire places to burn their ſacrifices, and the little cottage at the ſouth end of it, with the figure of a croſs engraved in front, on a freeſtone, might be placed there in Ludibrium erga Judæos, in contempt of the Jews religion.

To ſum up all, whether we turn our eyes towards this old *Wall*, which ſeems to ſmile at the wiſdom and penetration of the moſt ſage and inquiſitive; whether to the old *Ditch* in St. Mary's field, which ſome call a Britiſh Curſus, others a Roman Stadium; to the ſuperabundant quantity of antient *Coins*, and antique *pavements*, found ſo frequently among us, all tend to convince us that Leiceſter is of the higheſt Roman Antiquity(*a*).

(*a*) See the Article Vennones, in the Leiceſterſhire excurſions.


G.R.
III.
DIEU ET MON DROIT

Bath.





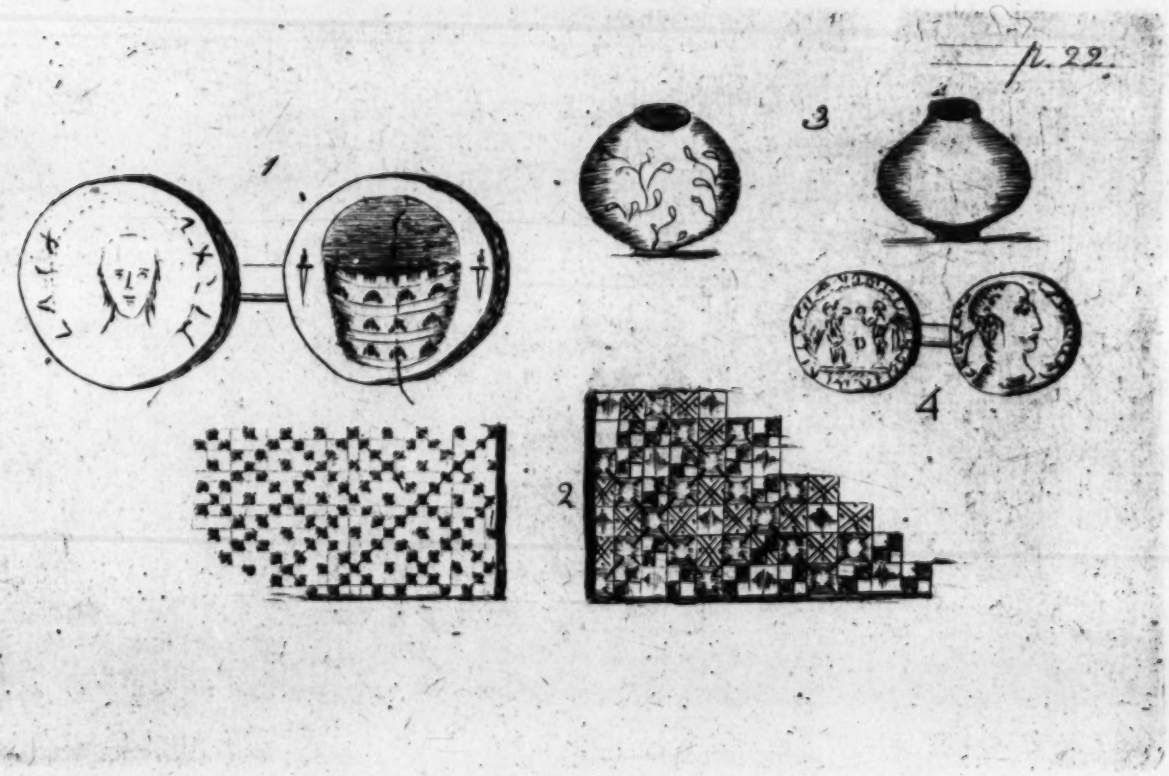
page 19



Diana & Actæon

so called.

p. 22.





LEDECESTRESCIRE.

See page 30.

CIVITAS de LEDECESTRE Tēpore Regis EDWARDI.
reddeb p annū regi. xxx lib dā numerū de xx.m
ora. 7 xv sextarij mellis.

HIC ANNOTANT TENENTES TRAS IN LEDECESTRESCIRE.
REX Willelmus.
Archieps Eboracensis.
Eps Lincolienſis.





Roman Coins found in Leicester mostly from Mr. Lee's collection noticed in page 21. beside which are N.o 1 a Nero found in Belgrave Gate in 1791; No 2 a fine Faustina found near the West Bridge. N.o 2 in the plate that faces page 21 (Hadrianus) was found in High Street in digging for the foundation of the Kings Arms Inn. —

J. Wigley. Sculp.

ROMAN PAVEMENTS

Are found in Leiceſter at various diſtances from the ſurface of the earth, the moſt eſteemed of which, is that preſerved in a cellar near the Town Gaol, called Diana and Acteon; a repreſentation of which is in the annexed plate.

Mr. Cart, Vicar of St. Martin, whoſe opinions were publiſhed in the philoſophical tranſactions in 1711, ſays it repreſents that fable which informs us that a perſon finding fault with Venus ſo offended her, that ſhe, in revenge, engaged her ſon Cupid to make him fall in love with a monſter. The ſame Gentleman obſerved, that the monſter having a head like a ſtag gave occaſion for it to be called the ſtory of Acteon.

The piece itſelf is not worthy much notice, only for its antiquity; for neither the contour of the figures, nor the execution of the work have merit compared with what has been done in other countries; but what is worthy of remark, is, that the perſon who (by digging) found this piece, found alſo underneath it the ground to conſiſt chiefly of oyſter ſhells to a great depth: This was found about the year, 1675. Mr. Blackburne ſhewed a drawing of this pavement in 1712, ſuppoſing it Hercules having caught the Endymion ſtag. Mr. Bickerſtaff has made merry with it, and contents himſelf with a diſapprobation of Mr. Cart's opinion. Prior to this, in the reign of James the firſt, was found a place arched over, which when entered, the floor was found, beautifully made of teſſelated pavement: and at intermediate ſpaces were placed earthen pipes. This was judged to be a Roman Bath. In 1667, ſome workmen having occaſion to dig where Mr. Johnſon's buildings now ſtand, formerly the water-houſe, found at the depth of 12 feet a beautiful floor of Moſaic work; there were alſo ſide walls ſtanding curiouſly painted,; and on one remained a fire place. At the Bath was found, about the year 1747, a floor curiouſly wrought in this manner. A few years ſince, a Roman pavement was found in the cherry orchard formerly belonging to

Mr. Watts of Danet's Hall. I ſaw part of a floor of this ſort of pavement diſcovered, when Mr. Stevens rebuilt his houſe in High Croſs Street; at one end of this was alſo a fire-place. Alſo under the parlour of Mr. King's houſe, in ſouth-gate ſtreet, was found a like pavement. Sinking for the front foundations of the new County Gaol, this year, a floor of this kind of work was found; the beſt piece preſerved of this is now in the poſſeſſion of the Rev. Mr. Pigot. In ſhort there are very few cellars ſunk, particularly at the weſt end of the town, without diſcovering ſome fragments of this ſort of pavement. (*a*)

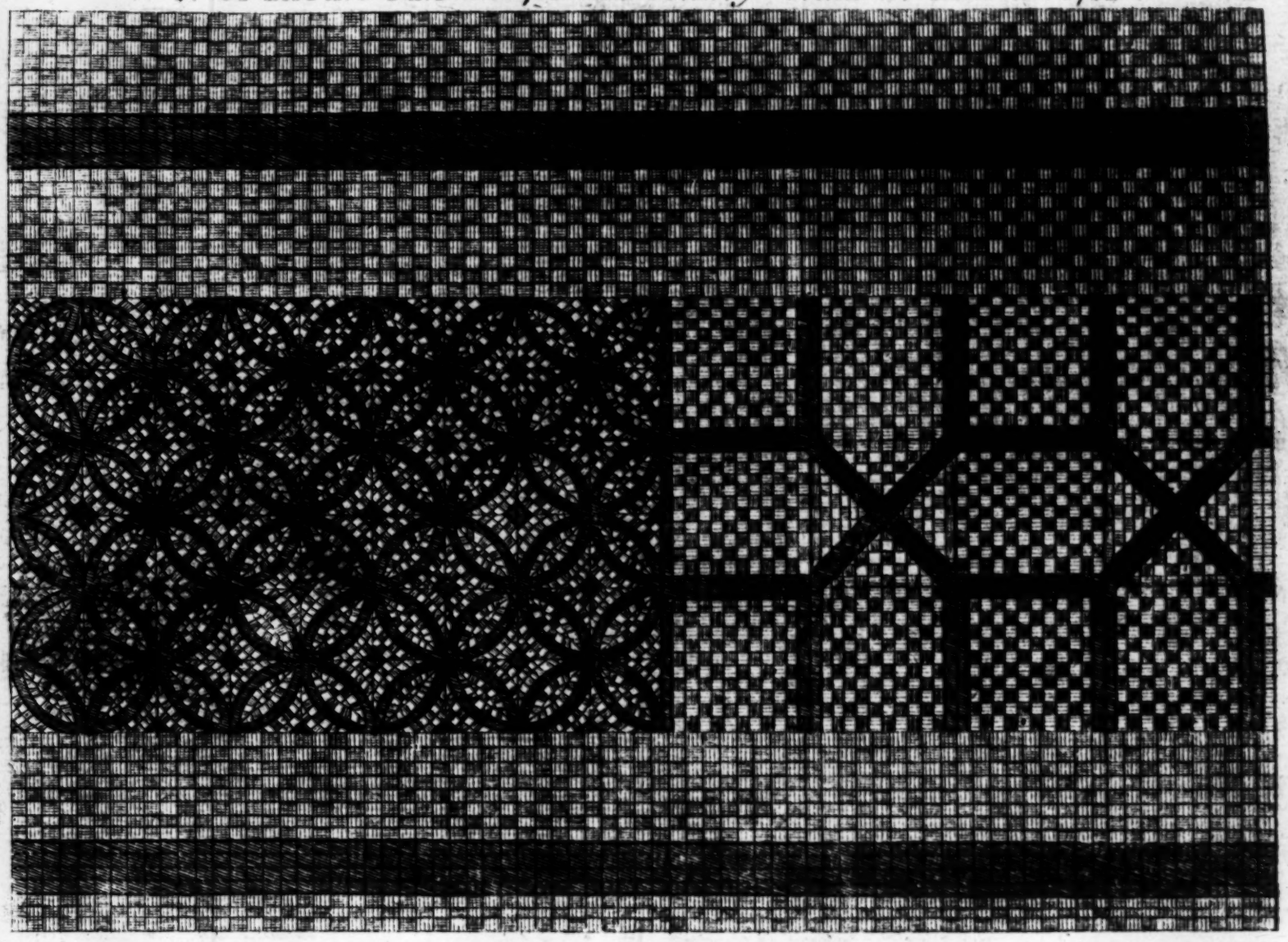
ROMAN COINS.

The coins which have been found in Leiceſter alſo prove its great antiquity, they are innumerable; the greateſt diſcoveries of them were in the year 1718, near the north gate. At about ſix feet under ground there was found an earthen jug, which might hold about three pints, full of them: The Rev. Mr. Cart ſaw them, they were of a ſort of copper, moſt of them about the ſize of a ſilver two-pence, and ſome of them about the ſize of a halfpenny; among them he obſerved the coins of Titus, Trajan, Diocleſian, Conſtantine the great, Conſtantine junior, Conſtantius, Valentinian, Theodoſius Gratian, Arcadius, and Honorius. And about four years ſince, was found, ſinking for a well at the Recruiting Serjeant, near St. Nicholas' Church, at the depth of about 8 yards, a Roman pavement, by the ſide of a thick impenetrable wall, of the kind and thickneſs of that which I ſpoke of reſpecting Jewry Wall, which was found to be in a direct line with it. Upon the floor among ſome rubbiſh was

(*a*) The ancients were exceedingly expert at this teſſelated work, of which there are various ſorts, ſome of glaſs, precious ſtones, marble, ſtone, and brick. The firſt of theſe is done at an immoderate expence of time, being of various coloured glaſs as ſmall as the head of a pin, which when finiſhed is very beautiful. The ſecond being coſtly is not ſo common as the other, and is ſeldom performed but upon altar-pieces. The others are more common, and are done indiſcriminately for various purpoſes. All theſe aſſemblages of teſſelated work, when executed with judgment, have a pleaſing effect.

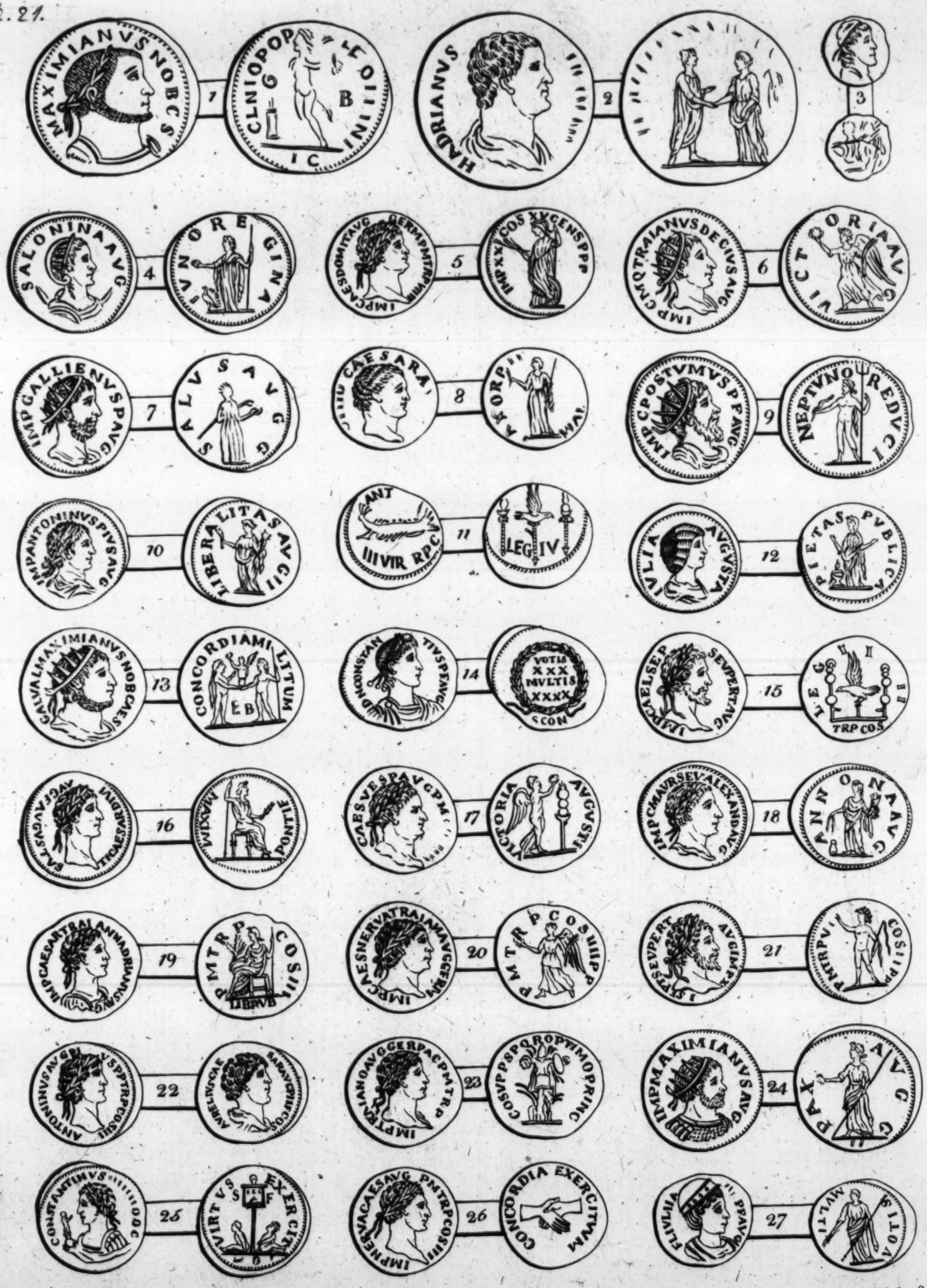
found

A Mosaic Pavement from the Cherry Orchard, Leicester. 1782.



G.R. III
BRITISH MUSEUM

p. 21.



J. Wigley Sc

found the fineſt copper coin ever diſcovered in Leiceſter. It is now and I lately ſaw it in the collection of Mr. Fowkes of Elmſthorp. On one ſide is a fine buſt of the Emperor; round his head this C. VAL. MAXIMIANVS. NOB. C. on the reverſe a whole length figure with emblems of plenty. Round his head GENIO POPVLI ROMANI. See fig. i. in the annexed plate. The coins in the ſame plate repreſent other pieces of coins found in or near Leiceſter.

By far the greateſt part of the coins have been found on that ſide of the town neareſt the Foſſe Road. Mr. Lee had the greateſt collection of the coins found in or near Leiceſter, the choiceſt of which, at his death, were ſold in London, a part now remains with Mr. George Buckley of Thornton, out of whoſe collection ſome of the coins in the annexed plate are taken. Mr. John Coltman of St. Nicholas' pariſh has made alſo a large and valuable collection of coins found in or near Leiceſter, ſome of which I have copied, and are repreſented in the plate ſubjoined. This Gentleman's known judgment in antiquarian reſearches urged me to aſk for, what was politely given, the uſe of a ſelection of his Roman coins.

ROMAN POTTERY.

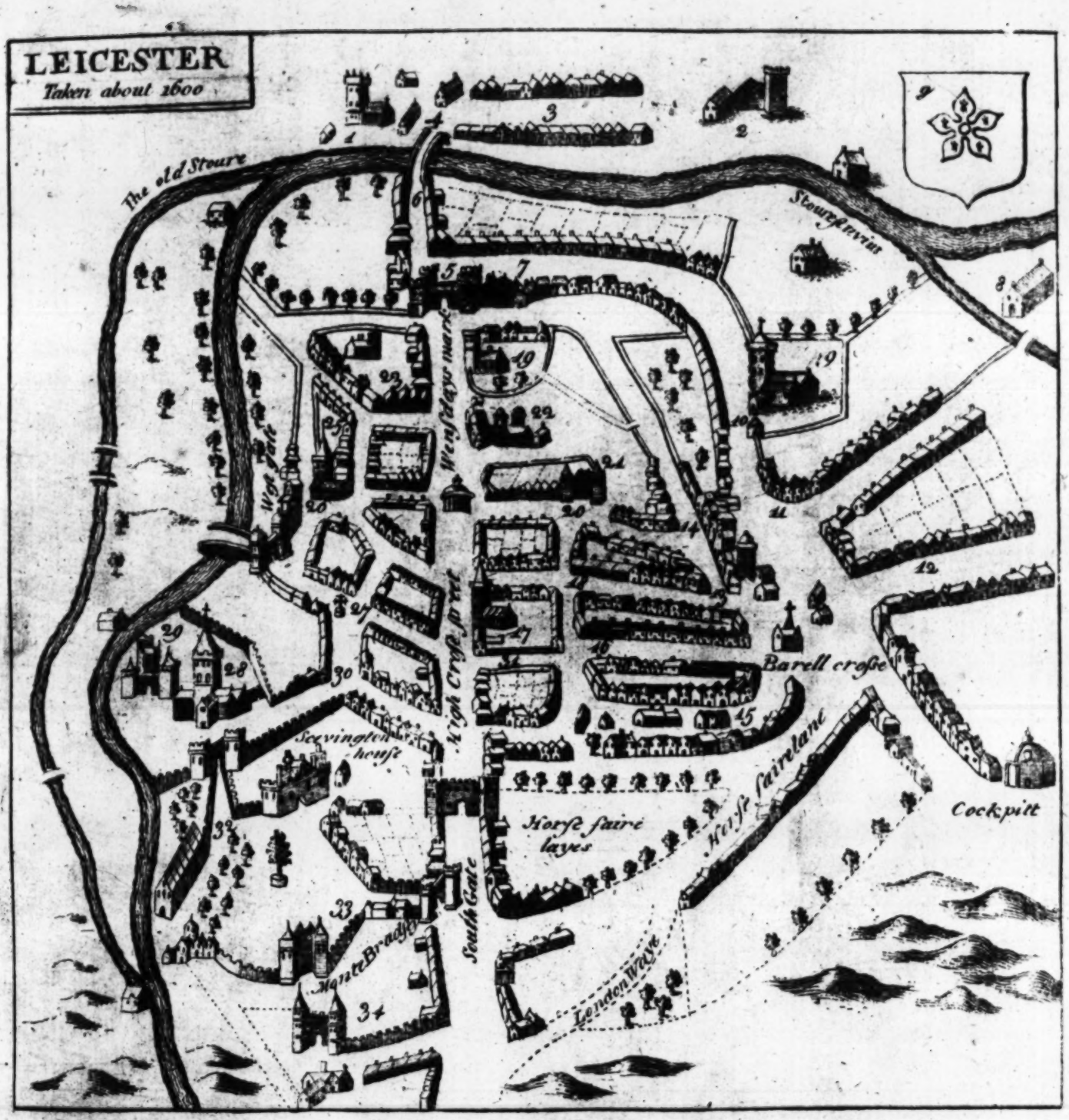
Alſo at various periods of time have been found on the weſt ſide of the town, and ſome Mr. Cart ſays *on horſe fair leys*, on the ſouth end of the town. A Remarkable diſcovery was made in the year 1783, of a leaden coffin and ſome Roman urns. In a ſarm yard belonging to Mr. Hardy, in Humberſtone-gate, as ſome men were getting gravel they found about four feet below the ſurface of the earth a ſtrong leaden coffin, on which had been placed a baſon and ſix urns round it, (I had this account from the labourers) the only one that was perfect is now in my poſſeſſion, they had nothing within them, nor the coffin, except a leg or arm bone dwindled to the ſize of a common quill, a few teeth and a jawbone; the ſkull was in pieces, and as thin as a piece of brown paper; the coffin was five feet ſix inches long, upon the breaſt of which ſtood the baſon and urns as in

plate

plate page 9. fig. 4. The lead of the coffin was uncommonly thick, it weighed 3Cwt. over which, to ſupport the lid, were placed ſtrong iron bars, ſome of which were eaten through by time. I believe it was not the cuſtom till about the 12th century to bury in or near places of worſhip. This place was without the walls of Leiceſter, and near no place of worſhip. The lead was ſold to a plumber, melted down, and now probably helps to cover the roof of ſome church. The figures in the plate facing page 19: below are fig. 1, a repreſentation of a piece of copper found in Leiceſter: it is engraved only for its ſingularity, as is alſo fig. 4. Figs. 3. are antient pottery and 2 fragments of old pavement.

It might be difficult to trace with exactneſs the boundaries of the Roman Town of Leiceſter; but the annexed plan, taken about the year 1600, by John Speed, may aſſiſt us in aſcertaining it. Not a common obſerver once mentioned to me, that if you compare Prior's plan of Leiceſter, in the corner of his map, with that of Chicheſter, Glouceſter, and other acknowledged Roman Towns, the eye of an antiquary will ſee at once the ſcite of the old Roman Town, and that Stukely was not ſo much wrong in his old plan of it as he is judged to be; tho' to be ſure Stukely had a happy knack at ſeeing what he wanted to ſee. I would requeſt the reader to examine this old plan with reſpect to what I have noticed in page 17, concerning the new and old river on the weſt ſide of the town. I would then aſk him For what purpoſe the *back river*, as it is called, could be cut? Beyond its junction, ſouthward and northward, it ſtill retains its name *Old Soar*; and Speed has marked it properly the *Old Soure* in contradiſtinction to the new. The broad and deep river, which runs immediately under the town, ſhews evidently for what purpoſe it was cut; doubtleſs for the uſe and convenience of its inhabitants, who had ſettled on the eaſy aſcent of ground riſing from the little meadow which ſkirted the old Soar. I ſcruple not to pronounce the river, over which the weſt bridge extends, to be a Roman or Saxon work, which, through a ſucceſſion of ages, has reduced the weſtern part of the old Soar to its preſent inſignificance.

Again:



Cheife places of ye Citie by figurs Noted

1 *S. Leonards*
2 *Leicester Abbay*
3 *Abbay gate*
4 *Sundaye Bridge*
5 *North gate*
6 *North gate street*
7 *Sowth gate*
8 *The Spittle*
9 *S. Margrets*
10 *Churche gate*
11 *Belgrave gate*
12 *Humberston gate*
13 *East gate*
14 *Swines market*
15 *Satterdayes market*
16 *Cankwell Lane*
17 *S. Martines*
18 *S. Martins Street*
19 *Alhallowes*
20 *High Street*
21 *Huntington place*
22 *Woole Hall*
23 *Graye fryers*
24 *Graye fryers gate*
25 *S. Nicholas*
26 *S. Nicholas shambles*
27 *Redd crosse street*
28 *S. Maryes*
29 *The Castell*
30 *Castell street*
31 *Black fryers lane*
32 *Ould Hospitall*
33 *The newe warke*
34 *The Grange*


G.R.
III.

Again: Let the reader look into this old plan of Leiceſter with reſpect to what has been ſaid page 16, of the Gate or Janua of the Roman City, and he will find that Bow-Bridge lies nearly in a line with St. Nicholas' Church, pointing to that open ſpace of ground facing the Rev. Mr. Andrews' door, which has been before obſerved; this perhaps may help him to form ſome judgment of the opinion there given of Bow-Bridge, which he may venerate, not for the abſurd tales told of it and Richard III. nor for Peck's more abſurd view of it, repreſenting an army paſſing over it with the dead body of poor king Dick, carryed to its burial; but for its more probable Roman or Saxon antiquity, ſtanding upon or near the ſcite of an old Roman Bridge leading to a great ſtation of the Romans, Ratæ.

Over the hiſtory of this place, immediately ſucceeding the period we have been noticing, hangs a cloud of darkneſs. We have to be ſure ſhocking accounts of the invaſion of the Picts, Scots, and Saxons, which followed the barbarities of Diocleſian upon the firſt chriſtians of this country, of which the inhabitants of theſe parts had their ſhare of woe; a Julius and Aaron were martyred at Leiceſter;(*a*) and not leſs than ſeventeen thouſand ſuffered martyrdom in one month in this Emperor's dominions. (*b*)

The Saxons after their conqueſt of this country changed the face of things throughout the land. It is well known that they divided it into ſeven petty kingdoms, of which that of Mercia was the largeſt: it included the county of Leiceſter; and thoſe of Hereford, Gloceſter, Worceſter, Warwick, Rutland, Northampton, Lincoln, Huntingdon, Bedford, Oxford, Buckingham, Stafford, Derby, Salop, Nottingham and Cheſter. (*c*)

In this new ſtate, or kingdom, ſtood Leiceſter almoſt in the centre, and was doubtleſs the theatre of many great actions. The Mercian kingdom was divided or diſtinguiſhed by ſouthern, and northern; and the inhabitants of Leiceſterſhire were called Mediterranæ, or Middle Angles. (*d*) Chriſtianity beginning to ſpread, particularly

(*a*) Speed. (*b*) Gildas. (*c*) See the Arms of the Mercian Kings, page 3. (*d*) Speed.

larly in the Mercian kingdom, Ethelfrid, a king of Northumberland, an enemy to chriſtianity, led an army to Leiceſter and ſlew ſo many that they could not be numbered. (*a*) It has been ſaid that about the year 653, that Penda, king of the Mercians, wiſhing to accompliſh his ſon's marriage with the daughter of Oſwy, king of Northumberland, cauſed his ſon to be crowned king of Leiceſter, before he went to Oſwy's court, whither he went in the character and ſtate of a king, and where, contrary to his father's wiſhes, he embraced chriſtianity. His name was Peada. (*b*) *Bede* ſays, Peada was poiſoned by his wife. *Swapham* ſays, by his mother; be that as it may he cauſed the religion of *Jeſus* to be firſt known and promulgated in theſe parts, all agree.

BISHOPS OF LEICESTER.

Oſwy after the death of his ſon-in-law ſeized the kingdom of Mercia, (*c*) and during his reign he ſettled a Biſhop's See at Lichfield, whoſe Biſhop had under him all the mediterranean regions. It continued ſo till about the year 737, (*d*) when a Biſhop's See was erected or rather transferred from Sidnaceſter to Leiceſter. (*e*)

That Leiceſter was not only a Biſhop's See, but a city of age and conſequence, may be drawn from a number of deductions, both under the Roman, Saxon and Norman governments. William of Malmeſbury calls it *Civitas Antiqua in Mediterraneis Angliæ.*

The firſt Biſhop of Leiceſter was Tota. (*f*) After him Edbert in 764. Werenbert, his ſucceſſor, died in 768. Unwora was Biſhop in

(*a*) Saxon Annals. (*b*) Bede. (*c*) Swapham. (*d*) W. Malmeſbury. (*e*) Sidnaceſter is a place not now aſcertained by our Antiquaries. It had 7 Biſhops, in all, after the diviſion of the See of Litchfield. (*f*) *Malmeſbury*. *Mr. Nichols* ſays, "The Biſhops of Sidnaceſter were A. D. 737, finally transferred to Leiceſter, at which time the kingdom of Mercia had three Sees: Litchfield, Dorcheſter and Leiceſter. In the latter ſat only two, Wilfridus 691, and Tota 737. *Mr. Cart* ſays that the See of Leiceſter being taken from out of the dioceſe of Litchfield, Cathrinus was placed in it 691. Another account ſays that Leiceſter was conſtituted a Biſhopric about the year 680, when Sexwulfus was inſtalled. To him ſucceeded Eadwadus, Ethelwinus, Edganus, Kineburtus, or Embert a cotemporary with Bede, and who aſſiſted him in writing his eccleſiaſtical hiſtory. Next Alwigh; he was at the Synod called by Archbiſhop

in 806. Rethun, his ſucceſſor, died in 851. Aldred was deprived in 873. Ceolred ſucceeded, who gave way to Halardus; he died in 897. It is not to be imagined, altho' it is aſſerted by ſome, that all the Biſhop's names I have given above, where ſolely Biſhops of the See of Leiceſter. It is more generally believed that Leiceſter did not continue a Biſhop's See a century. When it diſcontinued to be a See, I believe, cannot be eaſily aſcertained. However *Godwin de Præſul'* ſays, that the Biſhop of Leiceſter was among the Suffragans to Archbiſhop Aldulph, who died in 793. Sidnaceſter being loſt to the knowledge of hiſtorians has occaſioned much contrariety of opinions reſpecting the duration of a Biſhop's See at Leiceſter; and the names and number of the Biſhops. Rethun's ſign of the croſs is to a charter of privileges granted to the monaſtery of Crowland. Henry VIII. or perhaps Archbiſhop Cranmer had fixed upon Leiceſter as a Biſhop's See, when the religious houſes were diſſolved; but it ſome how or other loſt the intended honour.

This ancient city, in the Saxons time, was firſt dignified with an earldom; but of that hereafter. The ancient Lords of Leiceſter were its earls, and ſome time the power was divided between the earls and the Biſhops of the Dioceſe.

"The ancient Lords of Leiceſter (ſays Mr. Cart, vicar of St. Martin,) were the earls of Mercia and Biſhops of the Dioceſe."

"What the Biſhop had was called *manerium juxta Leyceſt'r & manerium de Knighton*, as comprehending that village in it. That part of it which is in the ſuburbs of Leiceſter, is commonly called the Biſhop's Fee, and remains as aforeſaid out of the liberties and juriſdiction of the Town; though ſeveral attempts were made in the reign of Edward VI. and Queen Elizabeth to have it united to and reduced under its government, but without effect."

"The Biſhops made the parſonage of St. Margaret a prebend of Lincoln, and the manor remained in them in 1138, as appears by a bull of Pope Innocent III. dated 4 kal. of May in that year, confirming

Archbiſhop Cuthbert Anno 747, and died 751. Then Eadulphus; after him Ceolulphus who died in 787. After whoſe death the See became vacant ſome years; but Anno 872, Brightred being made Biſhop, it was removed to Dorcheſter near Oxford.

confirming it to Alexander the then Biſhop and his ſucceſſors; but it was very ſoon after this transferred to the Earl of Leiceſter, in exchange for the manor of Weſtcotes, and other lands in Eſtfordeby and Segrave, under the title of the manor Cnihinton or Knighton; (as appears by Mon. Ang. vol. II. p 315) and by Robert Boſſu, founder of the Abby, was given to the monks there, and does now belong to the Duke of Devonſhire."

A recent deciſion in the Court of King's Bench, has given, or rather confirmed a concurrent juriſdiction to the County Magiſtrates, to act in the Biſhop's Fee. This caſe was argued May, 19, 1789. *Blankley*, againſt *Winſtanley* and *Burnaby*, on a ſpecial verdict found at the Aſſizes for the County of Leiceſter, which ſtated that the Biſhop's Fee, was no part of the Borough of Leiceſter, previous to the charter of Elizabeth. (*a*)

FORTIFICATIONS.

The Town Walls built in the time of the Saxons, may be traced in ſome parts, by the leaſes granted to divers perſons by the Mayor and Burgeſſes of this Borough, gifts to them in Fee Farm, from Queen Eliz. in 1592. By which it appears that it took a direction almoſt in a line with the houſes in Sanvey-gate, up Church-gate, where the ditch remained within theſe 50 years. On from the Eaſt Gate along where the range of houſes ſtand which bound the Market-place from Gallow-tree-gate; thence by the Lion and Dolphin, Saracen's-Head, and on towards the South-Gate. (*b*)

Ethelfreda,

(*a*) Lord Kenyon in his opinion ſays "There is one fact of great importance in this caſe, that the diſtrict in queſtion, was not part of the Borough of Leiceſter prior to the charter of Eliz. and was not added thereto by it. But the proximity of the Borough Magiſtrates might make it convenient that they ſhould act within that diſtrict in concurrence with the County Juſtices: that power is given to them by the Charter of Eliz. to which is added the ſaving clauſe couched in emphatical words reſerving the rights of the crown, and of all other perſons enjoyed before that time in tam amplis modo et forma prout ſi hæ literæ noſtræ patentes nunquam habitæ vel factæ fuiſſent."

(*b*) The following extract I have made from the Corporation accounts of leaſes granted by the Mayor and Burgeſſes to divers perſons, which any ways reſpect the Town Wall. Excluſive of thoſe the reader will find ſome curious particulars of the Corporation lands hereafter mentioned, "Sold to Jeffrey

Ethelfreda, or Edelfreda, a princeſs of Mercia, has the reputation of building the walls of Leiceſter, about the year 914, after it had been deſolated by the Danes.

The foundation of theſe walls has been frequently diſcovered of an amazing thickneſs and ſtrength. Matthew Paris called theſe walls, which lay in ruins in his time like foreſt rocks, indiſſoluble.

"This ancient city (ſays a M.S. I have ſeen) partaking of the viciſſitude of all things, partly by the Daniſh devaſtation, was reduced to a deſolate and ruined ſtate, until it was reſtored and raiſed up again by the hand of a noble Lady named Edelfreda or Egelfreda. Simon Dunelmenſis relates it thus: Anno DCCCCVIII. Civitas quæ Kair Leir Brittannice, et Legaceſtre dicitur Saxonice, juſſu Ethelredi

H Ducis,

Jeffery Davye certain houſes and grounds on the back ſide of the Angel and parcel of the Towne wall and ditch."—"Item, to Cademan of Nottingham one piece or parcel of ground upon the walls and ditch of Leiceſter."—"Item, all thoſe edyfices, buildings, barns, ſtables, dove-houſes, ſellers, eaſments, land, tenements, feedings, paſtures, yards, orchards, gardying cloſes, crofts, profits, commodities, advantages and emoluments whatſoever, ſituate and ſtanding upon the wawles and ditches of the town of Leiceſter, in or near Saturday market." Here all the tenants names are recited, which are in number more than 30, the yearly rent 20l. 2s. 8d.—"Item, all thoſe," (reciting as above) lying and being in the pariſh of St. Martin in Leiceſter, in and upon the Town wall and ditch near the Saturday market, conteyning in length 51 foot, and in breadth from the weſt part to the eaſt part 40 foot. Another purchaſe was made by a Mr. Cotton, ſituate near the laſt mentioned, which ſtood alſo upon the Town wall and ditch; and another piece was ſold to Cotton near the ſheep pens in Saturday market, which ſtood alſo upon the Town wall and ditch. (The ſheep pens about this period were fixed like thoſe in Smithfield, London, and ſtood in a range where the houſes of Mr. Burgeſs, hoſier, Mr. Ald. Eames, and Mr. Thomas Eames reſide.)—A little cloſe, near St. Margaret's church, was ſold, called part of the Town ditch.—Alſo a piece of ground upon the Town wall near the north gate.—Alſo two orchards near Baldwin-lane, near the weſt bridge, parcel of the Town wall and ditch.—Item, a garden place in Sore-lane, near the north gate, parcel of the Town ditch.—Item, a meſſuage or tenement, part of the Town ditch and waſte, without the north gate, about 24 yards; three cottage houſes near the laſt mentioned; alſo parcel of the ditch and waſte, contayned 40 yards in length, and 22 in breadth.—Item, a gardyn in Parchment-lane, parcel of the Town wall, and a garden near the corn wall. When the houſe in which Mr. Stone lives was rebuilt in Parchment-lane, now Swines-market, the Town wall foundation was found in a perfect ſtate; the ſtones were ſo grouted together that they were inſeparable.—Another little garden, near Parchment-lane, ſituate upon the Town wall, was alſo ſold.—In Freer-lane; Parchment-lane; adjoining the South-gate; near the North-gate; near St. Margaret's-gate; in Baldwin-lane, near the Weſt-gate; Sanvey-gate; near Freer-lane; parcel of Corpus ⋈ Gild; on the north weſt ſide of North-gate; in Gallow-tree-gate; near the Butt Cloſe; near the North-gate; near the Butt Cloſe; near Gallow-tree-gate; near unto a lane leading to the North-gate; and near the Butt Cloſe, were alſo tenements or parcels of land ſold which ſtood upon the Town wall and ditch.

Ducis, et Egelfedæ Reſtaurata eſt. (*a*) Expreſſed in the ſame words, almoſt, by Roger Hoveden. (*b*) And remembered by Henry Huntingdon thus: Quarto anno (Edvardi Senioris) Legeceſtria renovata eſt. (*c*) But moſt particularly and fully by Jorvallenſis in theſe words: Hoc anno Civitas quæ Brittanice Karlegium, Anglice Legeceſtre, ope Ethelredi Ducis Merciorum, et Elfledæ uxoris ſuæ reſtaurata eſt, et novis muris Circundata, ac pene ad duplum quam prius ampliata, ita quod Caſtrum ibidem ab olim extra muros ad aquam poſitum nunc infra muros videatur. i. e. This year 901 the City called by the Brittains Kairleir, and by the Angles Legeceſtre, by the means of Ethelred Duke of Mercia and his wife Elfreda, was repaired and ſurrounded with new walls and enlarged, almoſt as big again as before, ſo that the Caſtle there which was without the walls, placed near the water, now might ſeem within the walls. From whence we may note, that tho' it might have ſome walls before, yet the ſtrong walls were made by Edelfreda, but the Caſtle was built long before either, by ſome of the Saxon kings of Mercia, by whom or which of them cannot now certainly be known." (*d*)

The

(*a*) Simon Dunelm: Hiſt. fo. 152. (*b*) Hoved Annal. pars prior, fo. 421. (*c*) Hen. Huntingdon, lib. 5, fo. 353.

(*d*) This Lady was called the reſtorer of cities, ſhe was daughter of King Alfred the Great, and held the whole earldom of Leiceſter as a token of his affection. She, with her brother, King Edward the elder, fought many battles with the Danes, after the death of her huſband Ethelred. Her character and noble deeds are given by *Abbas Rivall. de Gen. Reg: Angl: fo.* 356. tranſlated thus: *The king's ſiſter Aelſleda augmented much his honour, being woman in Sex; but in mind and virtue more than man. She built Brimeſburch, Leiceſter, &c. She fought againſt the Welch, and conquered them. She ſubdued and took Derby, and ſo much excelled in fortitude, that by moſt ſhe was ſtiled king.* At the taking of Derby, poſſeſſed by the Danes, ſhe loſt four of her principal commanders, to her great grief. In her expedition againſt the Welch ſhe took priſoner the king's wife. *Jorvall. coll. fo.* 834. *And Henry Huntingdon, fo.* 353. Among her famous works, ſays Dugdale, her building the city of Warwick was not the leaſt. She died at Tamworth, in the 8th year of her government, and was buried at Glouceſter, in the porch of St Peter's church, leaving an only child.

Henry of Huntingdon compliments this Lady thus:

O Elfleda potens O terror Virgo Virorum
Victrix Naturæ nomine digna viri.
Ququoque, Splendidior fieres, Natura puellam,
Te probitas fecit nomen habere viri.

Te

The total deſtruction of the walls of Leiceſter happened in the reign of Henry the II. as did alſo the demolition of the Caſtle; both, on account of the city of Leiceſter being made the chief reſort of the diſaffected in that turbulent reign; but it ſuffered materially, prior to this, on account of its inhabitants, with thoſe of Lincoln, Stamford, Nottingham and Derby, having embraced the chriſtian faith. For in king Athelſtane's time, who was ſucceſſor to Edward, the Danes poſſeſſed thoſe places; but Edmund, who ſucceeded, being zealous for the chriſtian faith, reſcued them from infidelity. But the Danes, in the reign of king Ethelred, about the year 1016, returned in great numbers under the command of king Swain, and made ſtrange havoc of the fortifications and the inhabitants of Staffordſhire, Leiceſterſhire and Shropſhire. Prædaveruntque Simul in Staffordſchire, in Scropſcire et in Legeceſtre. (*a*) More of the fortifications hereafter. (*b*)

Before the Norman conqueſt Leiceſter appears to have reaſſumed its conſequence, after many debilitating viciſſitudes. At the Norman entrance, it was very well frequented and peopled, and had many Burgeſſes in it; out of whom they were bound by an ancient cuſtom, as appears by Domeſday Book, to ſend twelve men with the king ſo often as he went to the wars in perſon; but if he made a voyage by ſea, againſt his enemies, they ſent four horſes to carry armour

Te mutare decet, ſed ſolum nomina Sexus,
Tu Regina potens, rexque trophæ paraſa,
Jam nec Cæſarei tantum meruere triumphi
Cæſare ſplendidior, Virgo Virago, vale.

Elfleda great, though thou a woman art,
Thou ſtrik'ſt a terror in each manly heart;
Thou nature doſt ſo conquer and refine,
Thy virtue makes thee more than maſculine.

A royal changling thou, only the name,
A Queen in that, a king in worth and fame;
The virtues of each ſex in thee are found,
Farewel brave Dame, than Cæſar more renown'd.

(*a*) Henry Huntingdon. (*b*) I judge that the coloured lines in the old plan of Leiceſter, page 22, will ſhew nearly the direction of the Town wall.

armour and ammunition as far as London. And this city paid yearly to the king thirty pounds by tale, and twenty in ore, that is by weight, and alſo fifteen meaſures called ſextaries of Honey. (*a*)

The following is a tranſlation of that part of Domeſday Book which more immediately concerns this *ancient city:* for the words of it are *Civitas de Ledeceſtre Tempore Regis Edwardi, &c.* In plate page 19, the reader may ſee a fac ſimile of the hand-writing of this valuable book. (*b.*)

The City of Leiceſter, in the time of king Edward, paid yearly to the king thirty pounds by tale, (every *ore* of the value of twenty-pence) and fifteen ſextaries of honey.

When the king marched with his army through the land, twelve burgeſſes of that borough attended him. If the king went over ſea againſt the enemy, they ſent four horſes from that borough, as far as London, to carry arms, or ſuch other things as circumſtances required.

At this time king William has, for all rents from that city and county, forty-two pounds and ten ſhillings in weight.

Inſtead of one hawk he has ten pounds by tale; and, inſtead of a baggage or ſumpter horſe, twenty ſhillings.

Of the mint-maſters he has yearly twenty pounds, every ore of the value of twenty-pence. Of this twenty pounds Hugo de Grentemaiſnil has the third penny.

The king has in Leiceſter thirty-nine houſes.

The archbiſhop of York two houſes with ſac and ſoc; and they belong to *Cherlintone.*

Earl Hugh has ten houſes, which belong to Barhou, and ſix belonging to *Cacherworde*, and one houſe belonging to *Locteburne.*

The abbey of *Coventreu* has ten houſes.

The abbey of *Cruiland* has three houſes. From all which the king has his *geld.*

Hugh

(*a*) Camden. (*b*) Earl Ferrers, on one of my viſits to Ragdale, obligingly ſhewed me his copy of Domeſday Book, and permitted me to tranſcribe from it what I might have occaſion for; after I had made this ſelection, Mr. Nichols kindly offered me any portion of his tranſcript, with the tranſlation; the latter I give, as having been done with due attention.

Hugh de Grentemaiſnil has a hundred and ten houſes and two churches; beſides theſe he has in common with the king twenty-four houſes in the ſame borough. Over and above theſe the ſame Hugh has in Leiceſter twenty-four burgeſſes, who belong to *Hanſtigie;* and thirteen burgeſſes, belonging to *Sigleſbie;* and three houſes belonging to *Inwareſbie;* and ten houſes belonging to *Merdegrave;* and four houſes belonging to *Brohtone;* and nine houſes belonging to *Stotone;* and four houſes belonging to *Wichingeſtone;* and ſeven houſes belonging to *Andreteſbie;* and three houſes belonging to *Sceltone;* and ten houſes belonging to *Burſtelle*; and three houſes belonging to *Burtone;* and one houſe belonging to *Bruneſtineſtorp*; and two houſes belonging to *Diresford;* and three houſes belonging to *Legham,* which he bought of Oſbern; and one houſe belonging to *Letitone;* and one houſe belonging to *Turchiteleſtone.*

In the ſame borough has the ſame Hugh two churches, and two houſes, and four houſes decayed.

Hugh de Witwile holds of the ſaid Hugh five houſes with ſac and ſoc.

Theſe are in exchange for *Wadford.*

Robert de Veci has ſix houſes with ſac and ſoc belonging to *Niwetone;* and three others with ſac and ſoc, belonging to *Chiborne.*

Goisfrid de Wirce has one houſe belonging to *Dalbi;* and another belonging to *Pichewelle.*

In Leiceſter are four houſes belonging to *Scepeheſde;* and one belonging to *Sadintone;* and one belonging to *Torp.*

In the ſame borough Henry de Fereires and Robert the king's ſteward have one burgeſs.

The counteſs Judith has in the ſame borough twenty-eight houſes; and from the moiety of a mill ſhe has five ſhillings and four-pence. Without the borough ſhe has ſix ploughlands belonging to the borough; and ſhe has there one plough, and her homagers (*a*) three ploughs. There are eight acres of meadow, and a wood ſix furlongs long, and three broad. The whole is worth forty ſhillings.

(*a*) *Homage* was done to a Lord in this form, "Devenio *Homo* veſter de tenemento quod de vobis teneo," &c. Bracton de Leg. Angl. Lib. II. c. 35. ſect. 8.

The wood of the whole ſheriffwick, called *Hereſwode*, is four miles long and one broad. (*a*)

About the year 1102, there was a great clamour raiſed up againſt that canon of council for putting away the wives of the clergy; and prohibiting the marriages of prieſts. At Leiceſter, in particular, the clergy rejected it with much heat and ſcorn.

I am of opinion that Leiceſter ſunk under the name of a Borough Town ſoon after the conqueſt, ſome years preceding its being governed by mayors.

In the reign of Henry 1ſt, Robert earl of Mellent, a Norman, being made earl of Leiceſter, retired thither, made it (the caſtle) his chief reſidence, like ſeveral of the preceding earls, in the times of the Saxons. This nobleman, adorned and fortified the caſtle, added to it ſome ſtately buildings; and was extremely munificent to its inhabitants. (*b*) His ſon, alſo, Robert Boſſu, was equally affectionate to the town, during his reſidence at the Caſtle; but his arrogance to his king, or as ſome ſay, his undutifulneſs, was the occaſion of this place ſuffering much; the town of Leiceſter being dependent on him: it was too much the practice, in theſe earlier ages, for Sovereigns to puniſh the people immediately under the power and patronage of the nobility, for their offences. A notable inſtance of this took place in the reign of Henry H. and under the ſucceeding earl, Robert Blanchmains, who took part with Henry's ſon, in an unnatural rebellion againſt his father. Leiceſter at that time was the chief reſort of the diſaffected; and ſtood a long irregular ſiege, till the earl of Leiceſter and his followers were beaten in a battle fought near St. Edmund's-Bury, by an army under the command of Richard Lucy, chief juſtice of England, under whom was the prime nobility of England, who took part with the king. In this battle the earl of Leiceſter being taken priſoner, and the town of Leiceſter, about that time, being taken alſo by the king's forces, they fired it in ſeveral places at once, and what the flames could not deſtroy was thrown down by the force of men and engines. The caſtle held out ſome time after the king's forces had entered the town, but at length the

(*a*) Thus ends the account of Leiceſter in that curious record, *Domeſday Book*. (*b*) Spelman.

the garriſon was obliged to yield. This almoſt complete deſtruction of Leiceſter is viſible in the frequent diſcoveries of foundations of buildings, walls and rubbiſh; ſome of the former are found in directions right acroſs the preſent ſtreets.

For the offence of this earl the inhabitants of Leiceſter were, ſome impriſoned, others fined beyond their ability, and many baniſhed; numbers fled for refuge to St. Alban's, Edmund's-Bury, and other places; the caſtle was rendered defenceleſs, and the walls made heaps of ruin. When this happened, two armies were upon full march to relieve the place, one from William king of Scotland, under the command of his brother David, and another army under the command of Robert de Mowbray; but the latter was defeated and taken priſoner. King Henry himſelf was on full march to aſſiſt his friends in this buſineſs, and had arrived at Northampton, when Anketill Mallore, and William Dives, conſtables of the caſtles of Leiceſter, Mountſorrel, and Grooby, had made a ſurrender of thoſe ſtrong places, whereby the rebellion became extinct. (*a*)

This tranſaction is related differently by other writers, but all agree in the almoſt total deſtruction of the place, at this period. *Matthew Paris* wiſhed it to be underſtood, that during this tranſaction the earl was abroad with the king's ſon, and that the inhabitants of Leiceſter parlied, and ſurrendered the place on condition of being at liberty to depart whither they pleaſed, (before the deſtruction of it took place) on condition of their paying 300l. for their liberty. This coming (ſays he) to the ears of the earl of Leiceſter, he haſtened from Flanders, and with a conſiderable force was attempting to revenge the deſtruction of Leiceſter, when he was defeated near St. Edmund's-Bury. (*b*) Matthew Paris further ſays, "That when the walls of the city (wanting a good foundation) were undermined, and the props burnt which ſuſtained them, the pieces and fragments fell down, which remain to this day indiſſoluble;" the mortar remaining faſt to the ſtones, the pieces of ruin had the ſtrength and appearance of a ſolid rock.

Sir

(*a*) Hoveden. (*b*) His lady accompanied him at the battle, and to prevent the enemy being enriched by what ſhe had to loſe, pulled off a rich ring and jewel from her finger, and threw them into a river.

Sir Richard Baker ſays, " That Robert earl of Leiceſter, thinking to ſurpriſe Reginald earl of Cornwall and Richard Lucy, king Henry's Generals, at unawares, was himſelf by them overthrown, and the town of Leiceſter taken, which only the ſcite of the place defended from being battered from the ground." This is rather an obſcure paſſage. But from what has been written about the deſtruction of Leiceſter, at this time, anno dom. 1173, we may apply the words of an old writer I have ſeen on this ſubject, " That Leiceſter was diſmantled to wear the badge of its owner's diſobedience and treaſon." This is verified, and at this preſent day is awfully ſhewn in the orchards and gardens bounded by North-gate-ſtreet, Sanvey-gate, Church-gate and High-ſtreet, now a great chaſm in the plan of the town of Leiceſter; which, before this deſtruction, was cloſely inhabited.

About the year 1260, it was again in danger of ſuffering from the violent contentions in the Barons' wars. Simon Montfort, then earl of Leiceſter, had repaired the caſtle and fortified it againſt the king, Henry III. but after Henry had taken Gloceſter, Oxford and Northampton, the town's people ſuffered his army to march quietly thro' towards Nottingham; but of this hereafter.

At the concluſion of this Section, and every other, it may be neceſſary to mention a few things by way of retouching (uſing a painter's phraſe) what has before been offered to the conſideration of the public.

The age of Leiceſter we may conclude to be more than 2600 years. It was a city or place of note long before the landing of Julius Cæſar. That king Leir, a deſcendant of Brute, probably built or enlarged it about the year of the world 3110. That its name, in the times of the Britains, was Caer-Lerion: Caer in the Britiſh tongue ſignifying a city. That it had its name from king Leir, or the river near which it ſtands, formerly Leir, now Soar. (*a*) William of Malmſbury deſcribes it thus: Legeſtria et Civitas antiqua in Mediterranis Angliæ, a Legra fluvio preter-fluente ſic vocata; *Leiceſter is an ancient city in the middle of England, ſo called from the river Legra*

(*a*) A village in this county ſtanding near the head of this river is now called *Leir*.

Legra running by it. If ſo, its age is too diſtant to find out; but we may ſafely announce it to be one of the oldeſt in Britain.

Its Roman antiquity none have doubted: Ratæ, its name; the Roman road, the Foſs, paſſing by or thro' it; Raw-dikes (now commonly called Rowdikes) which has ſome analogy to its Roman name, and is doubtleſs either a Roman or a Britiſh work; the old ſtone found near Thrumaſtone turnpike; the ſuperabundant number of Roman coins found daily; the Moſaic pavement and pottery; and the old Jewry wall, ſtamp it with Roman honour and antiquity; and if I may be allowed the expreſſion, they are living teſtimonies of its power and greatneſs at the diſtance of nearly two thouſand years.

Of its Saxon conſequence, its earls; its name, Legeceſtria; the foundation of the town wall; the old wall of the caſtle; that fine remains of Saxon architecture, the chancel of St. Mary's church; and many other things not needful to recite, which the hiſtories of this country teſtify, all fully prove.

The Normans form a marked epoch in the annals of England, they produced a race of kings, who governed like conquerors by their own imperial power. Changes in conſequence took place both in reſpect to property and laws. Almoſt every diſtrict in this country had its new governors; but Leiceſter, notwithſtanding the ſufferings of its inhabitants in the reign of Henry II. for the raſhneſs of one of its earls, was particularly favoured by ſome of them; which is ſhewn, at the beginning of the next ſection, by their charters. In Domeſday book we find that Leiceſter was honoured with a public mint; a coin from which, I am informed, is now in the poſſeſſion of the Rev. Mr. Southgate, the antiquary, who is about to publiſh ſome curious particulars reſpecting the Anglo Saxon coins.

The earls, under the Norman race of kings, who governed Leiceſter, bring us to the next department of the Hiſtory.

SECT. II.

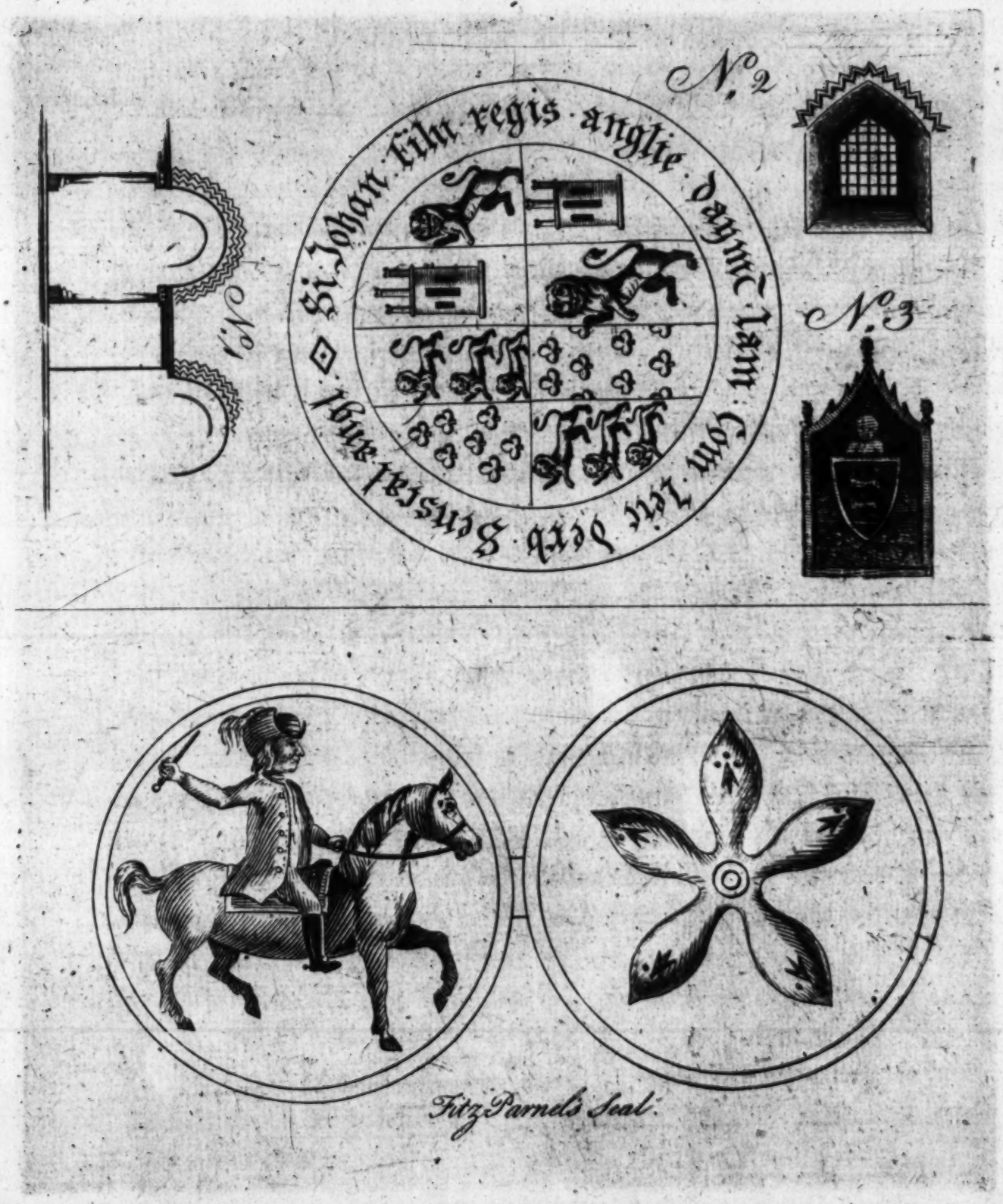
Its Hiſtory and Antiquities continued under its government of Mayors.

AFTER ſix reigns from the Norman conqueſt, we arrive at that grand epocha which diſtinguiſhes the reign of king John from all others. The tyranny of the kings of England, before him, and *his* imbecility and baſeneſs of heart, after a violent ſtruggle, gave us that Bulwark of Engliſh liberty, *Magna Charta.*

Upon the death of Robert Fitz-Parnel, the eſtates of the ancient earls of Leiceſter were divided between Simon de Montfort (deſcended from a natural ſon of one of the kings of France) and Quincy earl of of-Wincheſter, who had married two daughters of Blanchmains, earl of Leiceſter; but John afterwards beſtowed the earldom upon the earl of Cheſter, who died in 1229. But prior to this, king John had ſigned Magna Charta, and had given particular grants and privileges to many large towns in the kingdom: and much earlier than the completion of that noble deed, he had granted to Leiceſter the following charters; perhaps, in ſome meaſure, from motives of compaſſion, to foſter its inhabitants, children of adverſity, who even then felt anguiſh from that ſcourge of vengeance and revenge brought on them for the crimes of an imperious nobleman, their lord and governor.

"JOHANNES, Dei gratia, rex Anglie, dominus Hibernie, dux Normannie, Aquitaine, comes Andegav', archiepiſcopis, epiſcopis, abbatibus, comitibus, baronibus, juſtic', vic', prepoſitis, et omnibus ballivis et fidelibus ſuis, ſalutem. Sciatis nos conceſſiſſe, et hac preſenti charta noſtra confirmaſſe, burgenſibus ville Leiceſtr', quod libere et ſine omni impedimento eant et redeant et negocientur per totam terram noſtram, cum omnibus rebus et mercandiſis ſuis, ſalvis nobis et aliis debitis et juſtis conſetud'. Teſtibus, &c. Dat' per manum

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Fitz Parnel's Seal.

manum S. Wellen' archid', et Johannis de Gray, apud Bur', viceſimo ſexto die Decembr', anno regni noſtri primo." (*a*)

" JOHANNES, Dei gratia, rex Anglie, dominus Hibernie, dux Normannie, Aquitaine, comes Andegavie, archiepiſcopis, epiſcopis, abbatibus, comitibus, baronibus, juſtic', vic', prepoſitis, et omnibus ballivis et fidelibus ſuis, ſalutem. Sciatis nos conceſſiſſe, et hac preſenti carta noſtra confirmaſſe, burgenſibus ville Leiceſtrie, quod omnes empciones et vendiciones terrarum ville Leiceſtr', que facte ſunt et que fient ronabili in portmannot' ejuſdem ville, ſtabiles et firme permaneant. Teſtibus, &c. Dat' per manum S. Wellen' archid,' et Johannis de Gray, apud Bur', viceſimo ſexto die Decembr', anno regni noſtri primo." (*b*)

The following charter was granted by Robert Fitz-Parnel, earl of Leiceſter, who was a great favorite with king John, perhaps from ſimilar motives of compaſſion which I have conjectured, induced that king to grant his. This earl was exceedingly bountiful to the town, and lived chiefly at the caſtle after his return from the Holy wars.

" Robertus comes Leiceſtriæ, filius Petronillæ comiteſſe Leic: omnibus preſens ſcriptum inſpecturis ſalutem. Noveritis univerſitas veſtra me pro ſalute animæ meæ et omnium anteceſſorum meorum, et omnium ſucceſſorum meorum, dimiſiſſe et omnino relaxiſſe, a me et hæredibus meis in perpetuum illos denarios qui capi ſolebant annuatim de Burgenſibus meis Leic: ad metendum ſegetes meos apud Leic: et illos infinitos denarios qui capi ſolebant de ſingulis vaceis, in defenſo meo pro es capura et illos infinitos denarios qui capi ſolebant

(*a*) JOHN, by the grace of God, king of England, lord of Ireland, duke of Normandy and Aquitane, &c. To archbiſhops, biſhops, abbats, earls, barons, juſtices and vicars, and all bailiffs with faithful ſervants, health. Know that we have granted, and by this our preſent charter have confirmed and ratified to the burgeſſes of the town of Leiceſter, the privilege of travelling and trading in any part of our dominions free of all toll or impediment, with all their goods and merchandize, except thoſe dues and cuſtoms which belong to us. Witneſs, &c. Given under the hand of S. Wellen archdeacon, and John de Gray, in the borough, the 26th day of December, the firſt year of our reign.

(*b*) This charter was granted the ſame day as the former: It grants the burgeſſes of Leiceſter a right to purchaſe and ſell lands in the town of Leiceſter; and which may or ſhall be bought and ſold in the ſaid town, ſhall remain firm and binding.

bant de carrectis portantibus bladum de Leic: ad alium molendum quam ad molendum de Leic: et ut ratum habeatur in perpetuum appositione. Sigilli mei scriptum presens munivi. His testibus Paulo Abbe Leic: Pietro Clerico de Lira et multis aliis." (*a*)

Soon after the earl of Chester's death, who died in 1229, to whom king John gave the earldom of Leicester, we find the names of *William Teynlo* cum *Simon Curlewache*, presiding over, or governing the town of Leicester, A. D. 1233, the 18th of Henry III. the first names that occur in the corporation books. (*b*) Their names occur again in conjunction in the year 1239, and most likely they continued to preside till 1246, when

Peter Roger governed alone as an alderman. During this seemingly dawn of corporation government, Simon Montfort, in confirmation of the following grant, gave that which succeeds it. These two I found translated in a corporation book of references.

"Know all men, present and to come, that I Robert, earl of Leicester, have given, granted, and by this my present charter confirmed to the free Burgesses of the town of Leicester, certain limits, being according as they have been appointed, divided and set out by my direction, upon the view of lawful Men; a certain Pasture which is called Cowhaye, without the South Gates, with free ingress and egress appertaining unto the said pasture, through my lordship; to wit, a pasture which is between my pasture which is called Oxhey and

(*a*) Robert earl of Leicester, the son of Petronilla countess of Leicester: to all who may inspect the present writing health. Be it known to you all that I, for the good of my soul, and of all my ancestors, and of all my successors, have given up, and entirely cut off from me, and my heirs, for ever, those pence which used to be taken, yearly, of my Burgesses of Leicester to mow down my corn at Leicester, and those occasional pence which used to be taken of the owner of each cow, in my right, for transgression, and those occasional pence which used to be taken for rush baskets carrying corn from Leicester, to be ground from that place. And that the present writing may be held ratified for ever, I have confirmed it by affixing my seal. Witness Paul Abbot of Leicester, and Peter Clark of de Lira, and many others.

(*b*) A maiden lady in Leicester who lived in the reign of king John, says Matthew Paris, and who died in that place, A. D. 1225, was shut up for the space of seven years before her death; and in all that time tasted of no sustenance, either of meat or drink, except the sacrament of bread and wine, which she received only on each sabbath day. In an old book, belonging to the Rev. Mr. Topp, in which is fairly written the names of the mayors of Leicester in succession, with many curious remarks in the margin is this note. In 1233 were seen 5 suns att one time togeather; after which followed so great a dearth that people was constraned to eat horse-flesh and barks of trees; and in London 20000 died for want of food.

and near the mill of Amaris Danet, on the one part, and Tackholme on the other part, to have and to hold the ſaid paſture with the ſaid appurtenances to my ſaid Burgeſſes and their heirs and aſſigns of me and my heirs, freely and quietly for ever. They honourably paying thereout to me and my heirs and ſucceſſors; for every cow joiſted or to be joiſted, and for every beaſt in the ſaid paſture joiſted or to be joiſted, three-pence by the year. And for this Grant and Confirmation the ſaid Burgeſſes have given me a certain ſum of money, in hand, by way of fine, that neither I the ſaid Robert nor my heirs, my ſucceſſors, nor any other perſon by us nor for us may have any challenge or claim unto the ſaid paſture hereafter. In Witneſs whereof I have confirmed this Charter with my Seal. Theſe being witneſſes: Will. de Semſell, Thom. Eſterling, Rad. Mortivalls, Erneſtde , Gilbo Miners, Galfr. Coſteyn, de Cranford, Henr."

" To all faithful Chriſtians who ſhall inſpect this preſent Writing of Simon de Monterforti Earl of Leiceſter, health in the Lord. Be it known unto all our people, That whereas Robert, ſometime Earl of Leiceſter, my predeceſſor, has feoffed by his Charter to my Burgeſſes of Leiceſter a certain paſture called Kowhey, and lying in the South fields of Leiceſter, between my paſtures on either ſide. That I have newly remiſed, releaſed and entirely from me and my heirs for ever, quit-claimed all right and claim which I have had, or might have had unto the ſaid paſture to my free Burgeſſes of Leiceſter, which are or ſhall be (for the time being) to wit, to thoſe unto whom the ſaid paſture ought to belong, and that they may have and hold the ſaid paſture with the appurtenances of me and my heirs freely and quietly, without waſte, paying thereout yearly to me and my heirs or my ſucceſſors, for every beaſt joiſted or to be joiſted, three-pence, as in the time of my predeceſſors were accuſtomed to be paid. And for this remiſe, releaſe and quitclaim, my ſaid Burgeſſes have given me a colt of the value of one hundred ſhillings in hand, that neither I the ſaid Simon, nor my heirs or ſucceſſors, nor any of us, nor on our part may joiſt or depaſture our cattle in the ſaid paſture, but from all depaſturing and joiſting we

may be for ever excluded. In Witneſs whereof to this preſent Writing of Quitclaim my Seal is put, theſe being Witneſſes: Philip Calewan, Rico. de Harecourt, Alexander de Harecourt, Henr. Coſteyn, Peter ſon of Rog. Hugon Taſch, Willo Taſch, Ric. ſon of Goſſelym, Will. Wakeleyn, Theobald Clerk and others. Dated at Leiceſter, on the Feaſt of the Invention of the Holy Croſs, in the twenty-third year of King Henry the ſon of King John.

Circa Anno 1239."

" Simon de Montefort filius comitis Simonis de Montefort, Dominus Leiceſtriæ, omnibus Chriſti fidelibus præſentem paginam viſuris et audituris ſalutem in Domin. Noverit univerſitas veſtra me pro ſalute animæ meæ et anteceſſorum et ſucceſſorum meorum conceſſiſſe et præſenti Carta mea confirmaſſe de me et heredibus meis in perpetuum Burgenſibus meis Leiceſtriæ et hæredibus, quod nullus judæus neque judeæ in tempore meo ſive in tempore alicujis hæredum meorum uſque in finem mundi infra libertatem villæ Leiceſtriæ, habitabit neque manebit nec reſidentiam obtinebit. Volo etiam et præcipo quod heredes mei poſt me iſtam libertatem, integram et illæſam Burgenſibus prænominatis obſervent et in perpetuum warrentizent. Et in hujus rei teſtimonium præſentem Cartam ſigillo meo munivi. Hiis teſtibus Domino Almarico de Mittun, Domino Waltero de Aquila, Domino Rogero Blundo Capell, Willo Baſſet, Willo de Miravall et alliis." (*a*)

1248 ſtands *Peter Roger* mayor, who ſerved till 1257, then *Barthol. Donoſtap Cuſtey*. 1258 *Henry Rodington* till 1270, then *Alex. Delamer*. Upon the breaking out of the barons' wars the Caſtle at Leiceſter and that at Mountſorrel were repaired and put into a poſture of defence; but,

(*a*) Simon of Montfort the ſon of earl Simon of Montfort, lord of Leiceſter, to all the faithful in Chriſt who may ſee and hear the preſent pages, health in the Lord. Know all of you that I, for the good of my ſoul, and of my anceſtors and ſucceſſors, have granted, and by my preſent Charter have confirmed, on the behalf of me and my heirs for ever, to my Burgeſſes of Leiceſter and their heirs, that no jew or jeweſs in my time, or in the time of any of my heirs to the end of the world ſhall inhabit nor remain; nor obtain a reſidence under the liberty of the town of Leiceſter. I alſo will and command that my heirs after me obſerve and warrant for ever that liberty entire and inviolate to the aforeſaid Burgeſſes: and in teſtimony of this deed I have confirmed the preſent Charter with my ſeal. Witneſs Lord Almanie of Mittum, Lord Walter of Aquilla, Lord Roger Blunt Capell, William Baſſet, William of Marivall and others.

but, ſoon after, the latter was deſtroyed by order of Henry III. and the former was but little made uſe of during this turbulent reign; notwithſtanding that the town of Leiceſter, at the beginning of the troubles, was the reſort of the barons, where they met for the purpoſe of raiſing an army and fortifying the caſtle againſt the king. During this violent conteſt Simon de Montfort, earl of Leiceſter, was the leading general of the barons' army, and fought with the moſt diſtinguiſhed bravery. He took Henry III. and his ſon Edward priſoners, but at laſt loſt his life by ſurpriſe near Everſham. The conquerors, to their eternal diſgrace, at the head of which was young prince Edward, who had eſcaped from his captivity, cut off the earl of Leiceſter's head and ſent it as a daſtardly token of victory to his wife. He was killed in 1265. (*a*)

"I have ſeen," ſays Mr. Cart, "A Charter of Simon de Montfort, dated 39th of Henry III. whereby it appears, that the law called Borough of Engliſh, in which the youngeſt ſon was heir to his father, took place in this town," *i. e.* Leiceſter: but at the petition and with the conſent of all Burgeſſes he ordained, "Quod omnes filiæ primogeniti de legitimo matrimonio in villa Leyces et ejus ſuburbis poſt mortem patris eorum hæreditatem paternam et habitationem pacifice, &c. de utero habeant et obtineant, et ſine eis hæredes de utris legitimi." (*b*)

Robert Groſthead, the famed archdeacon of Leiceſter, flouriſhed in this reign. He wrote two hundred books which were held in the higheſt eſtimation. Not theſe only, but his virtues have deſervedly aſſiſted to hand down his name to poſterity. He was conſecrated biſhop of Lincoln in the twentieth year of this reign. He died A. D. 1253.

It is exceedingly probable that this town, about the period we are noticing, had increaſed in population: it had eſcaped the diſtreſs which others unfortunately endured in conſequence of the barons' wars;

(*a*) See his life among the earls of Leiceſter. (*b*) That all the daughters of the firſt born ſon in the town of Leiceſter, and its ſuburbs, lawfully begotten, may obtain, after their father's death; his inheritance and habitation peaceably, &c. from their birth; and in default of ſuch iſſue, the lawful heirs male, according to birth.

wars; it had become a ſanctuary to many unhappy people who were driven from their dwellings where the ſcourge of war had paſſed. The charters of its great earls, and thoſe granted by king John; the proſpect of a more regular mode of government which was riſing into conſequence and uſefulneſs, rendered it a place deſirable. The reader will ſee that I have more particularly noticed the corporation, in the reign of Henry 7th, when it put on its preſent form of government. There I have alſo placed the intermediate charters which have been granted by the kings of England, and others.

1271 *Alexander Bonde* was mayor of Leiceſter. It had then been governed by a mayor 22 years, but long before this time incorporated; but in what manner has not been handed down to us.

Mr. Cart, the reſpectable antiquarian, vicar of the pariſh of St. Martin, Leiceſter, ſaw an inſtrument among the corporation papers made in the reign of Henry III. in which the name of the earl of Leiceſter's bailiff is placed before Peter Roger the firſt mayor; conſequently the office of bailiff of the corporation claims as high antiquity as the office of mayor, and probably higher.

1276, then *William Leſſe* ſerved till
1280. (*a*) *William Engles* till
1283. *Thomas Gumfrey* till
1285. *Godfrey Manclarke* till
1287. (*b*) *Thomas Gumfrey* till
1289, *John Alleſley.*
1290, *Thomas Gumfrey.*
1291, *Lawrence Meller.*
1292, *Thomas Gumfrey.*
1293, *William Engles.*
1294, *Thomas Gumfrey.*
1295, *Ralph Joynde.*
1296, *Peter Gumfrey.* He ſerved till 1300.

(*a*) In 1278 farthings and halfpence were firſt coined in England. Edward the firſt began to reign in 1273.

(*b*) The Jews were expelled England. King Edward the firſt alſo annexed the principality of Wales to the crown of England, and gave his ſon the title of prince of Wales.

1300. (*a*) then *Thomas Gumfrey.*
1301, *William Engles.*
1302, *William Palmer* till
1304. *Robert Willowbye.*
1305, *Roger Willowbye.*
1306, *John Eagge.*
1307. (*b*) *Lawrence Celler.*
1308, *John Eagge.*
1309, *John Alleye.* He was mayor till
1313. *Walter Buſhby.*
1314, *John Knightcote.* June the 24th a parliament was holden at Leiceſter.
1315, then *John Allſey* till
1317. *John Marewe.*
1318, *William Waynhouſe.*
1319, *Peter Kent* till
1321. *John Marewe* till
1323. *John Norton.*
1324, *John Allſey* till
1326. *John Norton* till

This place ſuffered much about this time on account of Henry duke of Lancaſter, then earl of Leiceſter, being in oppoſition to the intrigues of Mortimer and queen Iſabell, king Edward's mother: The accomplices of this queen came in great force, and made ſuch havoc and ſpoil in Leiceſter, and in all the neighbouring poſſeſſions of the duke, that in eight days time the town and villages about it were ſtript and plundered of all their goods and chattles. (*c*)

1328. then *John Allſey.*
1329, *Henry Merlyn* till
1331. *John Marrowe* till
1333. *John Martin.*
1334, *John Leviric.*
1335, *John Allſey.*

(*a*) The mariner's compaſs invented. (*b*) Edward II. began his reign. (*c*) Knighton. The ſucceeding year Edward III. began his reign.

1336, then *Wareyne William.*
1337, *William Clome.*
1338, *John Martin.*
1339, *Jeffery Kent* till
1342. *Richard Lenditch.*

A grievous diſtemper raged in Leiceſter about this time, of which numbers died. It was attended, we are told, with ſuch violent pains, that the cries of the afflicted was like the yelling of a dog.

1343, then *John Martin.*
1344, *Richard Lenditch.*
1345, (*a*) *John Wainhouſe.*
1346, *John Heward* till
1349. *Jeffery Kent.*

About this time a great mortality raged in England, beginning at the ſea coaſt, and following the courſe of the ſun quite through the country. (*b*) It appears that there died of this dreadful viſitation in Leiceſter: in the little pariſh of *St. Leonard* about 380, in the pariſh of *Sanctæ Crucis* above 400, in the pariſh of *St. Margaret* above 700, and great multitudes in other pariſhes. (*c*)

In 1348 died at Litchfield Robert de Leiceſter, a native of Leiceſter and ſtudent at Oxford. He was a franciſcan friar and a great divine; and eſteemed, in a particular manner, by his patron the biſhop of Hereford. He wrote many books, whoſe merit gained him the reputation of a good writer and ſchool-man.

1350, then *William Goldſmith.*
1351, *Jeffery Kent.*
1352, *Roger Knightcote* till
1354. *John Tettlinge.*
1355, *William Donſtable.*
1356, *Roger Knightcote.*
1357, *William Donſtable* till
1359. *John Cook* till

Henry,

(*a*) The duke of Lancaſter was buried in the church of St. Mary, Leiceſter, attended by the king and queen and many nobility as mourners.

(*b*) Knighton. (*c*) Ibid.

Henry, the great or good duke of Lancaſter, began to build the collegiate church in the Newark in 1361.

1361. then *William Goldſmith.*
1362, *William Tubbe.*
1363, *Roger Belgrave.*

Knighton, relates the following which happened in Leiceſter about this time: A certain man, who was called Walter Wynkborn, was hanged in Leiceſter, upon the proſecution of the brother of John Dingley, maſter of Dalby, of the order of the Hoſpitallers, who being taken down from the gallows after hanging the uſual time, was put into a cart; but as he was taking to St. Sepulcher's chapel to be buried, he revived, which the prieſts perceiving, they took him into the chapel, and there protected him from the civil officers, who would have taken him again to the gallows to have ſuffered. At this time king Edward III. was at the abby, where he had reſted on a journey; and the ſtory of the man's recovery being related to him, the king gave him a pardon in the following words, which were within the hearing of Knighton, " Deus tibi dedit vitam et nos tibi dabinus cartam.". (*a*)

1364, then *John Martin.*
1365, *William Sireton.*
1366, *John Stafford.*
1367, *Thomas Beebye.*
1368, *John Cook* till
1370. *John Stafford.*
1371, *William Green.*
1372, *Henry Clipton.*
1373, *Henry Tetlinge.*
1374, *William Ferrer* till
1379. (*b*) *Henry Clipſton.*

The building of the old hoſpital, I believe, was begun in 1332, (about 184 years after Leiceſter abby was founded) but not completed or properly endowed till 1377.

1380,

(*a*) God hath given the life and I will give the pardon.

(*b*) In 1377 Richard II. began his reign; and in 1380 gunpowder was invented.

1380, then *Richard Gamelſtone.*
1381, *John Stafford.*
1382, *Richard Kaightcote.*
1383, *Richard Gamelſtone.*
1384, *William Ferror.*

This year the great reformer Wickliff died at Lutterworth in this county, as he was attending divine ſervice in the church there, of which he was rector. His life and writings are too generally known to need reciting here; but ſo far as relates to this hiſtory I neceſſarily give. The hiſtorian, Henry Knighton, (*a*) who was a canon of Leiceſter, was born at Knighton, was contemporary with Wickliff, and ſpeaks thus of him: "Doctor in Theologia eminentiſſimus in diebus illis. In Philoſophia nulli reputabatur ſecundus. In ſcolaſticis diſciplius incomparabilis. Hic maxime nitebatur aliorum ingenia ſubtilitate ſcientiæ, et profunditate ingenii ſui tranſendere, et ab opinionibus eorum variare." (*b*) Knighton, notwithſtanding this handſome eulogy on his character, was far from being pleaſed at his laying open to the eyes of the vulgar the myſteries of religion. He ſays, *it is caſting evangelical pearls before ſwine to be trampled under foot.*

Knighton informs us, that about this time there lived in Leiceſter a little inconſiderable man named William Smith, who fell in love with a young maid, but could not by any means gain a return of her affections: he in conſequence became rigidly religious; he wore no linen; drank no wine or beer; eat no fleſh or fiſh; went barefoot, and in his middle age learned to write and read. He became the aſſociate of one Richard Wayteſtath, a prieſt. They, together, reſorted to the chapel of St. John the Baptiſt, without Leiceſter, near the manſion-houſe of the lepers. To this place many of the followers of Wickliff came to hear them preach his novel doctrine. One day being deſirous of eating ſome herbs which they had procured, but

(*a*) He wrote his hiſtory from the conqueſt to the reign of Richard II. *Burton.*

(*b*) A doctor moſt eminent in divinity, in thoſe days. In philoſophy ſecond to none. In ſcholaſtical learning incomparable. One who endeavoured with curious learning and his profound wit to tranſcend the parts of others, and differ from their opinions.

but having no fuel to boil them, one of them turned round to the image of St. Catherine and ſaid, *look here, my dear friend, God has provided us ſome fuel that now we may relieve our hunger; ſurely this holy image will make holy fire, and by the axe and the fire the ſaint ſhall ſuffer a new martyrdom, and ſo happily come to the kingdom of heaven at laſt.* One of them then took the image and the other the hatchet, and obſerved that they ſhould ſoon ſee whether ſhe was a true ſaint or not; *for if ſhe,* ſays one, *bleed when her head is cut off, we will worſhip her; but if not, ſhe will do ſome good by boiling our herbs.* The reader need not be informed the reſult of the trial.

Theſe two brotherly reformers alſo ridiculed, before their hearers, St. Mary of Lincoln, or of Walſingham, which they ſtiled the witch of Lincoln and the witch of Walſingham; but for this they were expelled the ſociety to which they belonged, and baniſhed Leiceſter. (*a*)

William Swyndurby, the hermit, about this time alſo, was famed for his religious reveries in and about Leiceſter, where he preached vehemently againſt women and the lightneſs of their dreſs; for which they were ſo enraged that they were once about to make him die the death of *St. Stephen.* He alſo levelled his diſcourſes againſt the rich, (reformer like) which drove many, we are told, to deſpair of enjoying the kingdom of heaven. His cell was in one of the duke of Lancaſter's woods, near Leiceſter, from whence he uſed to go into the neighbouring villages, and to Leiceſter, to hold forth the opinions he had imbibed. He refuſed all gifts that were offered to him by the people of Leiceſter; but the duke had given orders that he ſhould want none of the neceſſaries of life. He afterwards retired to the abby of Leiceſter, where he was accommodated with a chamber and other neceſſaries; the religious of that houſe eſteeming him for the ſanctity of his life. From this place alſo he often travelled to villages to teach and preach ſalvation. He became much eſteemed by people in this place, by favouring the reformer's doctrine, to which the people in theſe parts were warmly attached. He was for this ſuſpended from preaching in any church or church yard in Lei-

(*a*) Knighton.

ceſter ot elſewhere within the dioceſe of Lincoln by the then biſhop; who prohibited all people from hearing him on pain of excommunication. This no ways abated his zeal; for his followers made him a ſort of pulpit upon two millſtones which lay to be ſold near the chapel or church of St. John Baptiſt, mentioned above, whence he preached to multitudes of people flocking from all parts to hear him. For this he was cited to appear at Lincoln, whither he went with great companies of his followers; ſome of which were the moſt conſiderable of the inhabitants of Leiceſter. But there this flaming divine was wrought upon to ſign his recantation, which he made public by the order of the biſhop in the cathedral of Lincoln; in the churches of St. Croſs, (*a*) St. Margaret's, and that of the New-work, Leiceſter. (*b*) Alſo in the churches of Melton, Haloughton, Harborough, Loughborough, and ſome others in the county of Leiceſter. Stephen de Syreſham, vicar of Barrow, was appointed to ſee it done in every church named. After this he lived obſcurely in the chapel of St. John Baptiſt for a time; but afterwards took to his old way of preaching. At Coventry he gained much eſteem; but was driven thence by the biſhop of that dioceſe. From Hereford he was driven by an order from court to apprehend him, which we are not told was effected. (*c*)

The Wicklivians in and about Leiceſter grew ſo numerous that Richard II. ſent out a ſevere commiſſion in nature of an inquiſition, againſt the people of this place, directed to Thomas Bryghtwell, doctor of divinity, and dean of the college of the New-works, in Leiceſter, Sir Richard de Barrow and Robert Langham, whereby the followers of Wickliff's doctrine were much reduced in numbers.

About this period it was when *Jack Straw* and his companions had alarmed government, and the terrors of their depredations reached Leiceſter. A meſſenger, one evening, came into that place, and acquainted the mayor, that thoſe daring rebels were arrived at Market-Harborough, and would certainly be at Leiceſter by one of the clock the ſucceeding day, to plunder and deſtroy the duke of Lancaſter's palace, the caſtle. The duke being then in Scotland about

(*a*) St. Martin's. (*b*) The collegiate church, then lately built. (*c*) Acts and monuments of Richard III.

about the public concerns, the mayor and his brethren were in great ſtrait about the duke's property; he being extremely beloved in that place. They, not willing to abide by their own opinions, called a meeting of the principal inhabitants to conſult what was beſt to be done in this alarming exigency; they agreed that a proclamation ſhould be made that night at the high-croſs, and at the four gates, in the king's name, that all the inhabitants who were able ſhould forthwith arm themſelves for the common defence early the next morning, and repair to gall-tree-hill; hoping by the divine aſſiſtance, to defend themſelves againſt the daring enemy.

In conſequence of this proclamation, there appeared not leſs than twelve hundred men armed, in the morning, by day light, who cheerfully ſubjected themſelves to the command of the mayor. In this poſition they ſtood all day, rather increaſing than decreaſing, waiting the arrival of the enemy. The next morning they appeared again, with the ſame excellent diſpoſition, to protect the duke's property and themſelves, from the inſults of a rebellious mob. This day they ſent out ſeveral ſcouts, to gain intelligence of the enemy's ſtrength, but none of theſe ſcouts returned.—But in the courſe of the day, the duke of Lancaſter's keeper of his wardrobe came haſtily from London, purpoſing to remove the duke's moveable valuables from the caſtle. He ſoon loaded ſeveral carts and other carriages with property, intending to lodge them in the great abby, as a place not likely to ſuffer by this rebellion. But in their paſſage thither, they were met, in the abby-gate, by the abbot and ſome of his brethren, who being alarmed alſo, refuſed the admittance of the duke's property into the monaſtery; apprehending it would be a temptation for the rebels to plunder them alſo; they well knowing that *Straw* and his multitude had vowed revenge to the duke of Lancaſter. Upon this refuſal, the property was taken back again, and lodged in St. Mary's church, near the caſtle, as a place of greater ſafety than the palace. However the event proved that the fears of the people here were premature, as thoſe daring rebels did not extend their depredations to Leiceſter; it manifeſted to the duke of Lancaſter the attachment of the inhabitants of that place to his intereſt.

1385,

1385, then *Henry Beeby* was mayor, and ſerved till
1387. (*a*) *Richard Grimſtone* till
1389, *Henry Clipſtone.*

There was ſuch plenty of corn in England, about this time, that in Leiceſter one hundred quarter of wheat was ſold for 100s.

1390, then *William Humbſtone.*

In this year, at the feaſt of St. Peter, John, duke of Lancaſter, made a ſuperb entertainment at his caſtle, Leiceſter, for the king and queen, whom he entertained in Leiceſter foreſt, with the ſport of hunting. At this royal feaſt were preſent, beſides the king and queen, the archbiſhop of York, the duke of York, Thomas, duke of Glouceſter, the earl of Arundel, John, earl of Huntingdon, and ſeveral other biſhops and nobles, who expreſſed the moſt pleaſing ſatisfaction at the magnificence of the entertainment made by the noble Lancaſter. (*b*) From Leiceſter caſtle the king journeyed to Nottingham, and lodged in his way thither at the lord Beaumont's, at Beau-manor, near Loughborough. This gentleman was repeatedly honoured with the company of princes, whom he entertained on their journies.

1391, then *Jeffery Clark*, died, *Richard Gamelſtone.*
1392, *Richard Gamelſtone.*

William Courtney, archbiſhop of York, this year viſited the dioceſe of Lincoln, and coming to Leiceſter abby, for the ſame purpoſe, on the Sunday before the feaſt of All-Saints, where he ſtayed ſeveral days, information was lodged againſt one Roger Dexter, Nicholas Taylor, Richard Wagſtaff, Michael Scrivner, William Smith, Roger Goldſmith, and William Parchment, inhabitants of Leiceſter, for holding opinions touching the *ſacrament of the altar*, *&c.* Theſe, with ſeveral others, received a citation to appear and anſwer interrogatories, reſpecting their faith; but they all, dreading the

(*a*) Robert de Vere, earl of Oxford, the firſt marquis ever made, that was in England. He was created marquis of Dublin.

(*b*) Although the excurſions of kings to capital places of the kingdom were not uncommon at theſe times; yet this viſit drew ſuch amazing crouds of people from the adjacent villages, who, with the numbers of town's people that curioſity brought together, almoſt impeded the paſſage of theſe diſtinguiſhed perſonages to the foreſt.

the eccleſiaſtical power, did not appear. In conſequence of this diſobedience, the archbiſhop, being at high maſs in the abby, on All-hallow-day, attired in the habiliments of his Pontificate, *denounced the ſaid parties, with all their adherents, favourers, and counſellors, to be excommunicated and accurſed:* which horrid ceremony ended with ringing the abby bells, lighting the candles, and putting them out again, and throwing them down to the ground, clapping the books together, &c. This excommunication alſo was denounced in all the pariſh churches in Leiceſter, and the whole town was laid under an interdiction, until the ſaid perſons ſhould be abſolved; proceſs in the mean time being iſſued out to apprehend them. Out of theſe people, William Smith, Roger Dexter and Alice his wife appeared, and made their recantations; upon which an extraordinary inſtrument was made out for their penance and abſolution. It was ordered, *that they, on a certain Sunday, ſhould each of them, reſpectively, hold an image of the crucifix in one hand, and each of them a taper of wax, of half a pound weight in the other, and ſtripped of all their cloaths, but their ſhirts, walk before the proceſſion three times, in the church of our lady, Leiceſter,* i. e. *at the beginning, middle, and end of the proceſſion, to the honour of him that was crucified, in memorial of his paſſion, and to the honour of the virgin, his mother, devoutly kneeling upon their knees, and kiſſing the crucifix; and then to ſtand all the time of maſs, before the image of the croſs, with the crucifixes and tapers in their hands, to make their offerings.* After all this had been duly performed, they were ordered, on the ſucceeding Saturday, in full market, *to ſtand in their ſhirts only, holding the crucifixes and tapers as before, and there to fall on their knees, and kiſs their croſſes three times; at the beginning, middle, and end of the market.* William Smith underſtanding latin, repeated the anthem *Sancta Catharina, &c.* but the other only ſaid Pater Noſters, and Ave Maries. The next day being Sunday, they likewiſe did penance in their own pariſh churches, after which they were abſolved.

Matilda, a follower of Wickliff's doctrine, who had taken up her gloomy reſidence in a wretched hut, in St. Peter's church-yard,

Leiceſter, was by the order of archbiſhop Courtney, when at Leiceſter, compelled to appear before him, to anſwer certain queſtions reſpecting her faith. The archbiſhop, perceiving her to be expert, and to be poſſeſſed of abilities beyond his expectations, ordered her to appear before him on a future day, at the monaſtery of St. James, at Northampton. There the ſubtle female appeared, and, to the aſtoniſhment of all preſent, gave ſuch reaſonable and ſatisfactory replies to Courtney's interrogatories, that ſhe was diſmiſſed, without penalty or puniſhment, with leave to retire to her recluſe abode in Leiceſter.

1393, then *Thomas Wakefield.*
1394, *Henry Beebye.*
1395, *Thomas Leighes.*
1396, *John Houghton.*
1397, *Ralph Fiſher.*
1398, *Roger Humberſtone.*
1399, (*a*) *William Stafford.*

Some time in the reign of Richard II. the king and queen in a progreſs to York, ſtopped at Leiceſter abby for refreſhment, and lodged at night with lord Beaumont at Beau-manor.

In the perſon of
HENRY IV.

were united to the crown the poſſeſſions of the Lancaſter family, who had reſided long, and had been exceedingly bountiful to this place. He was the ſon and heir of John of Gaunt or Ghent, couſin to Richard II. who was depoſed. From him the kings of England, as it were, became allied to this place. Hence I give the hiſtory of this Section under each reſpective reign: to ſome of my readers it may be uſeful.

1400, then *John Loveday* was mayor. At this time a parliament, prorogued from Weſtminſter, was held at Leiceſter. Preſent the king and principal nobility of the kingdom. (*b*)

1401, then *Peter Barnell.*

1402,

(*a*) The firſt of Henry IV. (*b*) Stavely.

1402, then *John Church.*
1403, *John London.*
1404, *John Fawkener.*
1405, *Thomas Wakefield.*
1406, *Ralph Humbeſtone.*
1407, *John Greſley.*
1408, *John Church.*
1409, *Thomas Legles.*
1410, *Roger Humbeſtone.*
1411, *Thomas Waldgrave.*
1412, *Robert Randolph.*
1413, *Robert Euinton.*

HENRY V. (a)

1414, then *Ralph Humbeſtone.*
1415, *John Laborne.*
1416, *John Erneſbye.*
1417, *Henry Beebye.*
1418, *William Pache.*
1419, *Thomas Waldgrave.*
1420, *Thomas Clarke.*
1421, *Ralph Humberſtone.* **A parliament was holden in Leiceſter, wherein 110 priories were ſuppreſſed for ſpeaking ill of the king's conqueſt in France.** (b)
1422, then *John Church.*

HENRY VI.

1423, then *Henry Foſter.*
1424, *Henry Darby.*
1425,

(a) He won the glorious battle of Agincourt, and entailed the crown of France to that of England. He was an enemy to the followers of Wickliff's doctrine.

(b) Marginal note in the Rev. Mr. Topp's book of mayors.

1425, then *William Newbye.* A parliament was holden at Leiceſter. The king ſat in perſon in the great hall of the caſtle, attended by the firſt nobility in the kingdom.

1426, then *John Pickwell.*
1427, *William Haſtye.*
1428, *William Tacy.*
1429, *Ralph Humbeſtone.*
1430, *Thomas Waldgrave.*
1431, (a) *John Loughborough.*
1432, *Thomas Clarke.*
1433, *William Newbye.*

" 24th April, 11th Hen. VI. 1433."

" Arbitration then held and made by William Ferrars lord of Grooby, William Babington, knight, chief juſtice of the common pleas, &c. For the ending of certain controverſies lately ariſen between the mayor, burgeſſes and commonalty of the town of Leiceſter; and the dean and chapter of the collegiate church of the Bleſſed Virgin Mary. For that the ſaid mayor, burgeſſes, &c. having made certain ditches and plantations of willows in a certain paſture ground in the ſouth fields of Leiceſter, called by the name of Cowhey, upon the bank of the drains, otherwiſe called the Old Dyke of the Cowhey, which the ſaid dean and chapter complaining of as an injury have deſtroyed.

" And alſo becauſe the ſaid mayor, &c. have claimed right of common for their beaſts in time of common in a certain great meadow called Cloſe Meadow, and one cloſe called Goſling Croft; the dean and chapter alledge that the ſaid paſture belonged to them and their ſucceſſors, and that for every cow and every other beaſt joiſted and fed in the ſaid paſture they had a right to 3d. per ann. for each. To which the mayor, &c. replied, that the town of Leiceſter was from time immemorial an antient borough, and that they and all their predeceſſors were continually and quietly, without interruption, ſeized and poſſeſſed of the ſaid paſture of their own right, as of fee, by paying yearly for every cow and other beaſt 3d."

It

(a) The king of England crowned at Paris king of France.

"It was then decreed, ordained and determined, That the aforeſaid mayor, &c. do poſſeſs and hold the aforeſaid paſture of Cowhey to the ſaid mayor and their ſucceſſors, of their own right, as of fee, by paying yearly to the ſaid dean and chapter for every cow, &c. 3d. as aforetime hath been uſed to be paid to the ſaid dean and chapter, &c. unto the ſaid paſture of Cowhey, either by themſelves or their deputies; and every animal therein joiſted or fed, to drive as far as the Granges of the ſaid dean and chapter in the ſouth ſuburbs of Leiceſter, and there to impound the ſame, and detain them until full ſatisfaction is made, &c. Moreover, it was decreed, ordained and determined, That it ſhall and may be lawful for the mayor, &c. on the north part ejuſdem of the ſame, towards the ſoil of the ſaid dean and chapter, by bounds and ſtones antiently marked out, to dig and ſeparate, &c. And, that upon the bank of the ſame, upon the border of the ſaid paſture, upon the bank of the river Soar; and alſo upon the bank of the drains, otherwiſe called the Old Dyke of the Cowhey, on both parts of ejuſdem the ſame, upon their own ſoil to plant one row of willows; and that the willows upon the Foſs Ditch of the ſouth ſide of the ſaid paſture towards Oxley, alias called Mawrey Meadow, late planted with two rows at the will of the ſaid mayor, &c. ſhall ſtand and remain; except only, that the bank of the ſame being raiſed by the earth and willows lately planted upon them, as it is ſaid, being planted ſo thick and near together that in times of inundations the water of the Wreke overflow the ſaid Mawrey Meadows, to the great detriment of the ſaid dean and chapter. The aforeſaid mayor, &c. therefore in four places ejuſdem of the ſame, of the ſpace of 16 feet; or eight more opportune places, of the ſpace of 8 or 10 feet; ſhall cut away wholly the ſaid willows, and ſhall level the bank of the ſame, &c. And it ſhall and may be lawful for the ſaid mayor, &c. upon each of the aforeſaid ſpaces, to place wooden bars to keep beaſts in the ſaid paſtures, without being any impediment to the waters or the Wreke; and to renew and repair the ſame at their wills and pleaſures. And that the cauſeway leading from Aylſton to the town of Leiceſter, leading through the ſaid paſture on both ſides the Foſs, and planted with two

rows of willows, and fenced with wooden bars, and a gate towards the king's highway, ſhall ſtand and remain for the future, for the better introduction of beaſts into the ſaid paſture, except for an enlargement of the king's highway the ſaid bars and gate ſhall be moved nearer to the ſaid paſture, for the ſpace of 30 feet, and be there repaired and renewed at their pleaſure. And that the Foſs Ditch on each ſide the cauſeway without the bars, towards the king's highway, be filled up and levelled, and ſo remain for ever for an enlargement of the highway. And in the day time every year, from the firſt day of May, the gates ſhall ſtand unlocked, for the dean and chapter to drive or impound the cattle, in order to obtain their aforeſaid dues without trouble or moleſtation. And that the aforeſaid mayor, &c. do cauſe to be filled up and cut down all the Foſs lately made, extending itſelf in length from the ſaid Mawrey Meadow through the ſaid king's highway to the town of Leiceſter, and ſhall keep the ſaid paſſage plain and open, and not ſhut up, as it uſed to be before the laſt Foſſation. And moreover it was ordained and determined, that the great meadow below the river Soar, called Cloſe Meadow; and one cloſe, called Goſling Croft, ſhall remain ſeparate and encloſed to the dean and chapter for ever. (a)

1434, then *John Reynold.*
1435, *Adam Raceye.*
1436, *Walter Pomerye.*
1437, *William Haſtey.*
1438, *John Coventrie.*
1439, *John Reynold.*
1440, *Adam Pacy.*
1441, *Thomas Charity.*
1442, *William Wiomſwold.*
1443,

(a) But whatever right the ſaid college then had, it is now veſted in the corporation of Leiceſter; for upon the diſſolution of the religious houſes, the college of the Newark, with all the poſſeſſions belonging to that church, came into the hands of the king, parcel of which were the Granges, Goſling Cloſe, &c. The fields were demiſed by Queen Elizabeth to Francis Haſtings, Eſq. and by him aſſigned to the corporation; and were afterwards given and granted to Francis Morris and Francis Phillips, and by them ſold to Sir William Smythe and Humphrey Smythe, who ſold the ſame to the corporation, 7th February, 1618, in conſideration of 1000l. *E. Ludlam.*

1443, then *William Grantham.*
1444, *William Newbye.*
1445, *Thomas Green.*
1446, *John Bennit.*
1447, *Ralph Fiſher.*
1448, *William Wigſtone.*
1449, *William Stringer.*
1450, *John Reynold.*
1451, *William Clark.*
1452, *William Wiomſwold.*
1453, *Thomas Charity.*
1454, *Thomas Dalton* till
1457. *Thomas Green.*
1458, *John Reynold.*
1459, *William Wigſtone.*
1460, *Robert de Shellington.*
1461, *Robert Rawlat.*

During the minority of king Henry VI. France was governed by a regent, the great duke of Bedford. During his abſence a very diſagreeable quarrel happened in England, while he was proſecuting the war in France, between the duke of Glouceſter and cardinal Beaufort, the lord chancellor. This contention reaching the ears of Bedford, he immediately ſet off for England. On his arrival he took every neceſſary ſtep to effect a reconciliation: after ſome fruitleſs attempts it was at laſt brought to paſs at Leiceſter, were a parliament was then ſitting.—Here the duke of Glouceſter, and the lord chancellor, ſwore that they would bury in oblivion the very ſeeds of their quarrel, ſhook hands, and were made friends.

After this followed great acts of feſtivity and honour. The court continued at Leiceſter for ſome time; where the young king, then about five years old, was knighted, on the feaſt of the Penteco ſt, by the regent of France.—The young king likewiſe, at the ſame time, knighted the earl of Cambridge, (*a*) and about forty other attendants on that parliament, which continued ſitting till the latter endi

(*a*) He was alſo created duke of York at Leiceſter.

end of June, when the young king left that place with his tutor the earl of Warwick. (*a*)

EDWARD IV. (*b*)

1462, then *John Yoman.*
1463, *John Reynold.*
1464, *William Helbiche.*
1465, *Roger Wigſtone.*
1466, *John Friſby.*
1467, *Richard Gilliot.*
1468, *Richard Yates.*
1469, *John Wigſtone.*
1470, *Robert Skillinton.*
1471, *John Parſons.*

Every one knows that this was a reign of blood ſhedding, when the prime of the nobility, and their followers were deſtroyed, in war, fighting for the houſes of York and Lancaſter. King Henry VI. who had been deprived of his crown, at this time reaſcended the throne; and his generals, the earls of Warwicke and Oxford, lay with a large army at Leiceſter. Edward, having recruited his army, marched thither, intending to give them battle; but the two armies came to no deciſive action till they arrived at Barnet, where that terrible battle was fought, in commemoration of which a pillar is erected in that place.

1472, then *Roger Wigſtone.*
1473, *Robert Rawlett.*
1474, *John Roberts.*
1475, *William Holbiche.*
1476, *Peter Windwold.*
1477, *John Reynold.*
1478, *Thomas Towbye.*
1479, *John Parſons.*
1480, *John Wigſtone.*

1481,

(*a*) *Speed.* (*b*) Jane Shore flouriſhed in his reign.

1481, then *John Penny.*
1482, *Peter Curtis.*
1483, *John Robards.*

During the bloody civil commotions in this reign, Leiceſter and many other places were drained of their young men to ſerve in the wars.

EDWARD V. AND RICHARD III.

The crown which only hovered over the head of young Edward ſettled for a ſhort time, on that of Richard, who was at once the uncle, protector and murderer of the young king, Edward the 4th's ſon. As in this county terminated the wars between the houſes of York and Lancaſter, I will juſt touch lightly upon the reign of Richard.

Edward was only 12 years old at the death of his father. Richard, an ambitious prince, but renowned as a ſoldier and politician, ſent the young king and his brother to the tower, and removed, partly by carnage, all their friends from their preſence. In two months they were no more. (*a*) Richard aſcended the throne with but little of the common exultations of the people; but with many ſecret execrations. The mourning relatives of the unfortunate ſufferers formed a deſign to baniſh him from the throne, to place thereon Richmond, a deſcendant of John of Gaunt, who was then an exile in Britanny. Richmond accepted the offer to marry the late king Edward the 4th's daughter, Elizabeth, and thereby effect an union with the oppoſite factions of York and Lancaſter. He ſoon landed an army of 2000 men in Wales, and haſtened to attack Richard, who

(*a*) Sir Thomas More ſays, "that one Tyrrel was appointed by Richard to murder them; and he procured one Miles Forreſt, and John Dighton, to be the immediate inſtruments thereof. *The former*, ſays he, *was a fellow fluſhed in murder before time, and the latter a horſe-keeper, a big, broad ſquare knave.* About midnight, all others being removed, theſe two ruffians entered the princes apartments, and ſuddenly wrapped up their bed-cloaths, and forced them againſt their mouths with all their ſtrength, till they ceaſed to ſtruggle under the preſſure of their weighty bodies, which, when theſe monſters perceived, they laid their dead bodies naked upon the bed, and then fetched Tyrrel, their employer, to be ſatisfied of the completion of the horrid deed, who cauſed their bodies to be buried under the ſtairs."

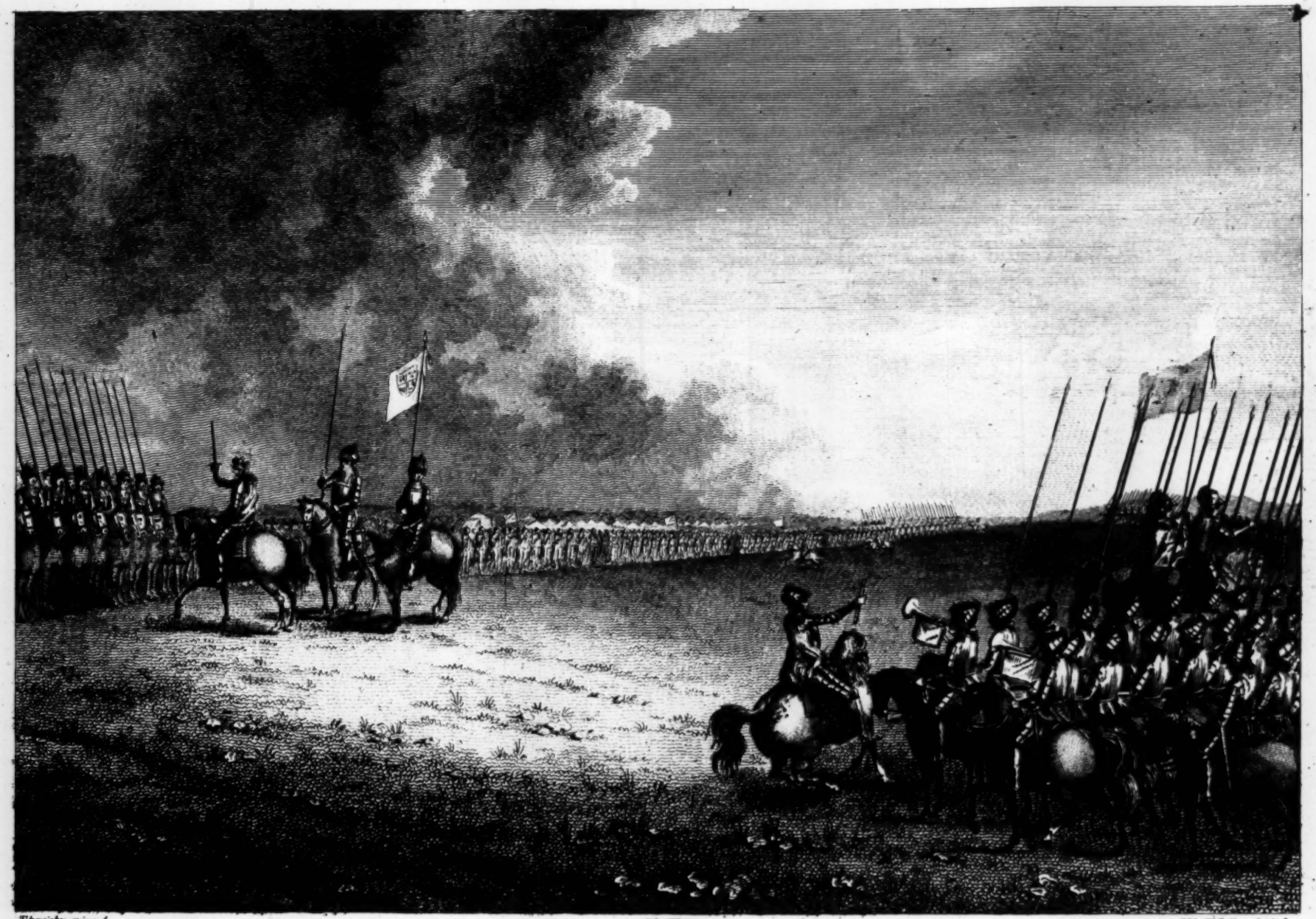
had fixed his ſtandard at Nottingham. Richmond, on his march, was joined by numbers, while Richard was forcing others into his ſervice. The two armies met in Sutton field near Market-Boſworth in this county, where the two leaders harangued their reſpective armies before the battle. Richmond's army conſiſted of about 5000 men and Richard's 12000. Richmond advanced towards Richard with the ſound of trumpet for battle, they fought, but Richard's followers fought not like their leader: when all was loſt but his life, ſtern Richard ruſhed into the arms of death to ſeek for Richmond; but was ſurrounded by his enemies, after performing the moſt brilliant warlike atchievements that hiſtory has related. He died by the hands of a multitude, who cut his body in the moſt ſhocking and barbarous manner, while he was breathing his laſt. It is ſaid that his body was ſo ſhamefully mangled that it had the appearance of only a maſs of blood.

"Richard's body being ſtripped naked, all tugged and torn, and not ſo much as a clout left to cover his ſhame, was truſſed behind a purſuivant at arms, like a hog or a calf; his head and arms hanging on one ſide the horſe, and his legs on the other, all beſprinkled with mire and blood, and was ſo carried to Leiceſter." (*a*) It was there publicly expoſed for two days, and then without any funeral ceremony buried in the Grey Friar's church.

What relates more particularly to this place at the period we are ſpeaking of is as follows.

Richard, on the 21ſt of Auguſt, 1485, the night before the battle, entered Leiceſter with much pomp. His army which was with him, chiefly conſiſted of foot, which he ſeparated into two diviſions, the firſt marched five in a rank, then followed the baggage, then himſelf georgeouſly dreſſed, upon a large white courſer, richly capariſoned, attended by his body guards. The ſecond diviſion marched five a breaſt alſo. The horſe formed the wings and kept near the centre. (*b*) "With a frowning ſterne countenance, but yet in great pompee he entered the town of Leiceſter after the ſun was ſet, being full of indignation and ſwelling in anger, which ſomewhat he aſſwaged with threats

(*a*) Holmſtead and Speed. (*b*) Hutton.



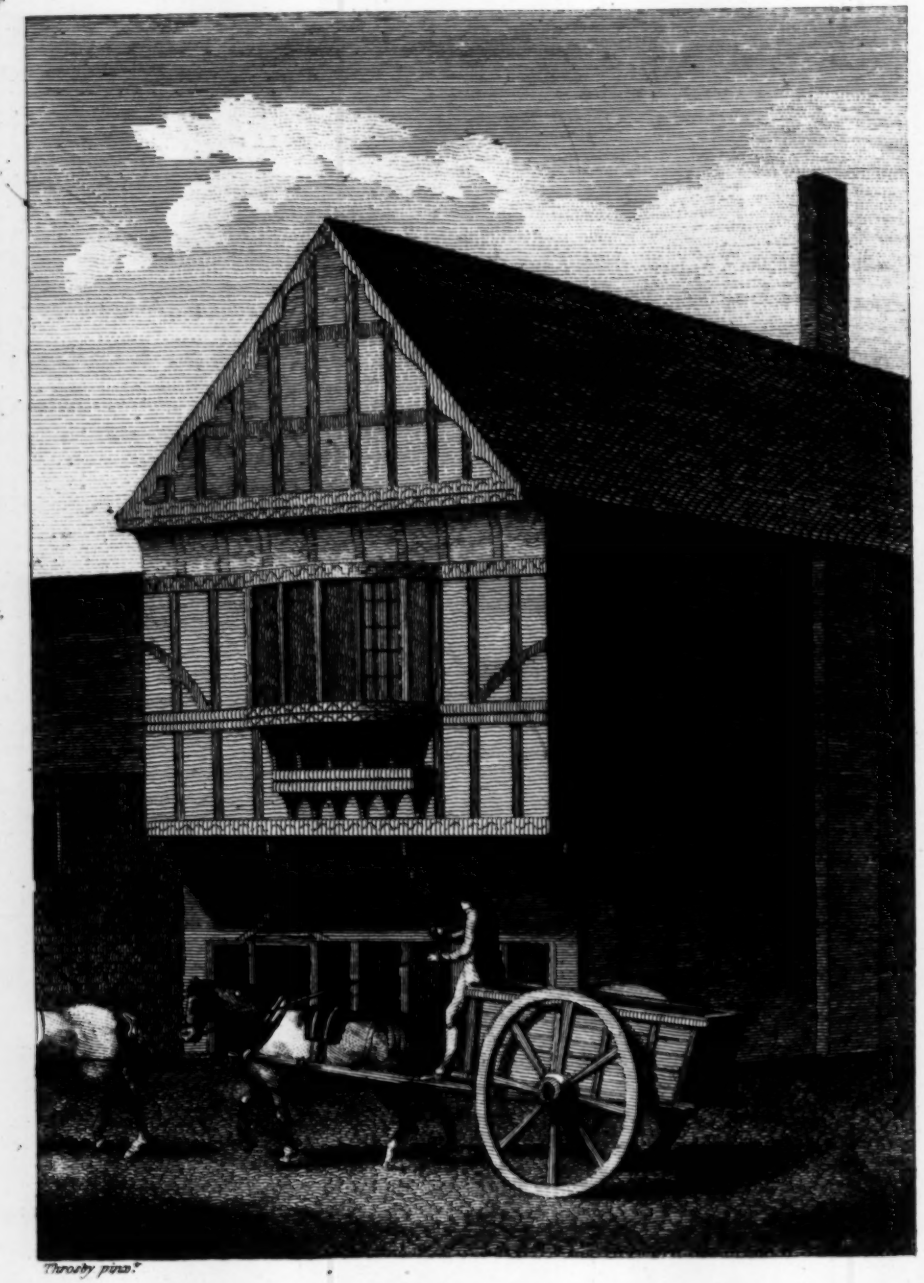
Throsby pinxt

W. & J. Walker sculpt.

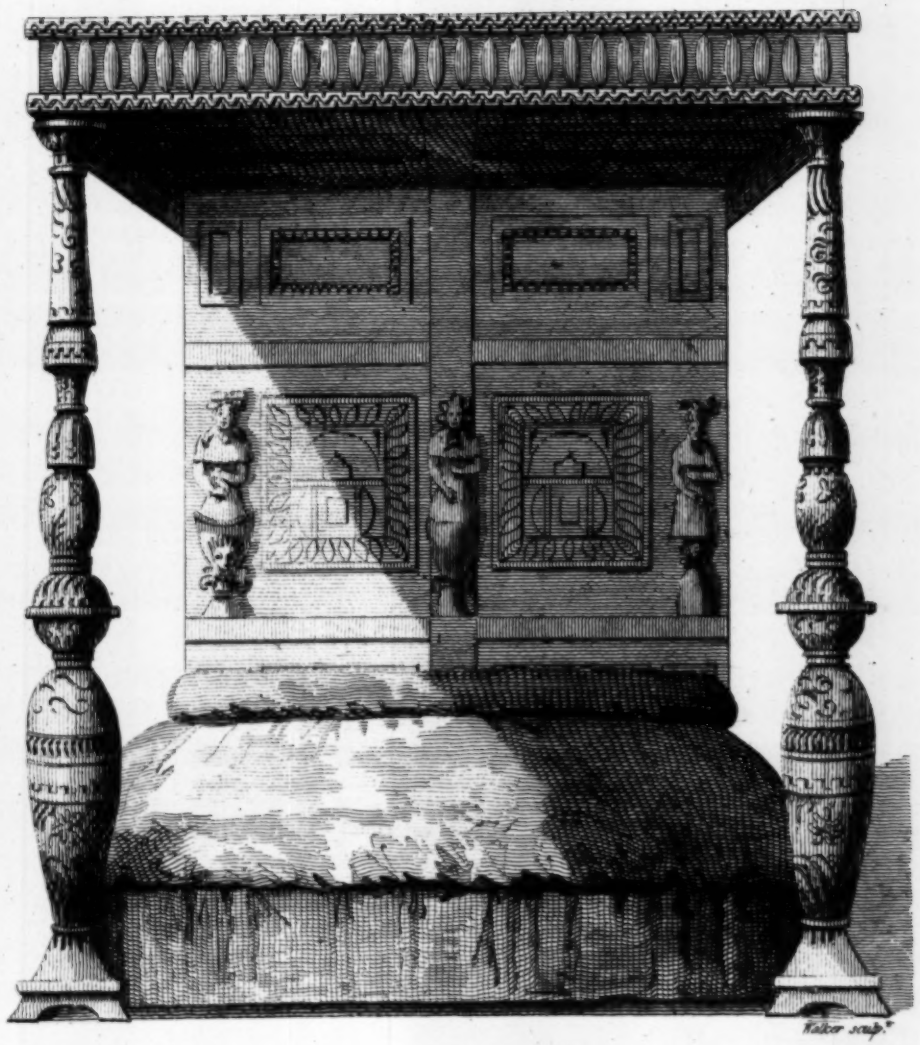
RICHMOND's *Army advancing on*  *the eve of Battle to meet* **RICHARD's.**

Published by J. Throsby, Leicester, Feb.ʳʸ 5th 1792, and Sold by W. Walker, Engraver, N.o 16, Rosomans Street, London.

G.R. III.
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Throsby pinx.t



Walker sculp.t

Richard the Third's House and Bedstead.

Publish'd by J. Throsby, Leicester Sep.r 17.th 1791. Sold by W. Walker N.o 16 Rosoman's St. London.

threats of reuenge." (*a*) Mr. Hutton is of an opinion that his army in the manner they marched from Nottingham muſt cover at leaſt three miles of the road.

Richard ſlept at the Blue-Boar inn, part of which houſe is ſuppoſed to be now ſtanding, oppoſite the Free-ſchool; and the bedſtead whereon he is ſuppoſed to have lain, is now in the poſſeſſion of Mr. Ald. Drake. They are both repreſented in the plate annexed. (*b*) The

(*a*) Speed.

(*b*) The principal part of Leiceſter was then that ſtreet which leads from the north to the ſouth gate. The chief inn ſtood oppoſite the Free-ſchool; where the king lay, then the ſign of the Boar, "his cogniſance," ſays Mr. Speed. But upon his defeat, all the ſigns of the *Boar* being torn down as an inſult to his memory, it ſeems probable that this inn afterwards became the ſign of the *Blue Bell:* The Rev. Mr. Pigot, of Leiceſter, once ſhewed me a piece of glaſs, now in the poſſeſſion of Miſs Simons, the preſent occupier of that houſe, which was taken from one of the windows, on which is painted a blue bell. The preſent name of the lane, in which part of this houſe ſtands, ſeems compounded of the former and latter ſigns, *Blue Boar-lane.*—The building evidently ſhews the age of Richard, and the chimney which appears in *Blue-Boar lane* of an earlier age; it is built of thin brick or tiles ornamented with ſome wrought ſtone. The room in which it is ſaid he ſlept is very large and now open to the roof; the timber which ſupports it is painted with vermillion, in a rude vine-tree tendril form. There is on the left, as you approach the old ſteps which lead into this room, a low door, the panels of which are handſomely carved: a ſpecimen of which is in plate, page 64, fig. 1.

The hiſtory of the bedſtead is handed down thus. In the year 1613, a Mrs. Clark, keeper of the *Blue Boar* inn, or *Blue Bell* inn, oppoſite the Free-ſchool, Leiceſter, was robbed by her ſervant maid and ſeven men.—The relation being ſingular, and intereſting, I ſhall give it as told by Sir Roger Twiſden, who had it from perſons of undoubted credit, who were not only inhabitants of Leiceſter, but ſaw the murderers executed.

"When king Richard III. marched into Leiceſterſhire againſt Henry, earl of Richmond, afterwards Henry VII. he lay at the *Blue Boar* inn, in the town of Leiceſter, where was left a large wooden bedſtead, gilded in ſome places, which after his defeat and death in the battle of Boſworth, was left, either thro' haſte, or as a thing of little value (the bedding being all taken from it) to the people of the houſe; thence forward this old bedſtead, which was boarded at the bottom, (as the manner was in thoſe days) became a piece of ſtanding furniture, and paſſed from tenant to tenant with the inn."

"In the reign of queen Elizabeth this houſe was kept by one Mr. Clark, who put a bed on this bedſtead, which his wife going to make haſtily, and jumbling the bedſtead a piece of gold dropped out. This excited the woman's curioſity; ſhe narrowly examined this antiquated piece of furniture, and finding it had a double bottom, took off the uppermoſt with a chiſſel, upon which ſhe diſcovered the ſpace between them filled with gold, part of it coined by Richard III. and the reſt of it in earlier times."

"Mr. Clark (her huſband) concealed this piece of good fortune, though, by degrees, the effects of it made it known, for he became rich from a low condition, and, in the ſpace of a few years, mayor of the town; and then the ſtory of the bedſtead came to be rumoured by the ſervants. At his death, he left his eſtate to his wife, who ſtill continued to keep the inn, tho' ſhe was known to be very rich: which put ſome wicked perſons upon engaging the maid ſervant to aſſiſt in robbing her.—Theſe folks, to the number of

ſeven,

The manner of this king's body being brought back to Leiceſter after the fatal battle deſerves to be noticed. All hiſtorians agree that the body of king Richard was brought back to Leiceſter tied on a horſe behind Blanch Sanglier, a purſuivant at arms, "with its head dangling like a thrum mop," ſays Hutton. It has been reported that an old woman of Leiceſter, on being told that Richard had ſtruck his ſpur againſt a high ſtone which ſtood upon the bridge over the Old Soar, ſaid, *that where his ſpur had ſtruck his head ſhould be broken*, which, it is ſaid, happened when his body was brought back. The bridge over which he went to the battle, and over which his body was brought back, was doubtleſs the bridge now the principal road to the Dane Hills. "No king," ſays Mr. Hutton, "was ever ſo degraded a ſpectacle, humanity and decency ought not to have ſuffered it." Mr. Cart ſays "they tied a rope about his neck more to inſult the helpleſs dead than to faſten him to the horſe."

It ſhould ſeem that this Blanch Sanglier, an officer in Richard's army, was ſuffered, perhaps from importunity, to take the body of his maſter to Leiceſter for a decent burial, for it cannot be ſuppoſed that Richmond would ſend the body to be buried at Leiceſter; unleſs it were to convince the world that Richard was dead. However, whether the body lay expoſed in the town hall, then at the bottom of *Blue-Boar lane* where the hoſpital called Symonds now ſtands, by

ſeven, lodged in the houſe, plundered it, and carried off ſome horſe loads of valuable things, and yet left a conſiderable quantity of valuables ſcattered about the floor; as for Mrs. Clark herſelf, who was very fat, ſhe endeavoured to cry out for help, upon which, her maid thruſt her fingers down her throat, and choaked her, for which fact ſhe was burnt, and the ſeven men, who were her accomplices, were hanged at Leiceſter ſome time in the year 1613."

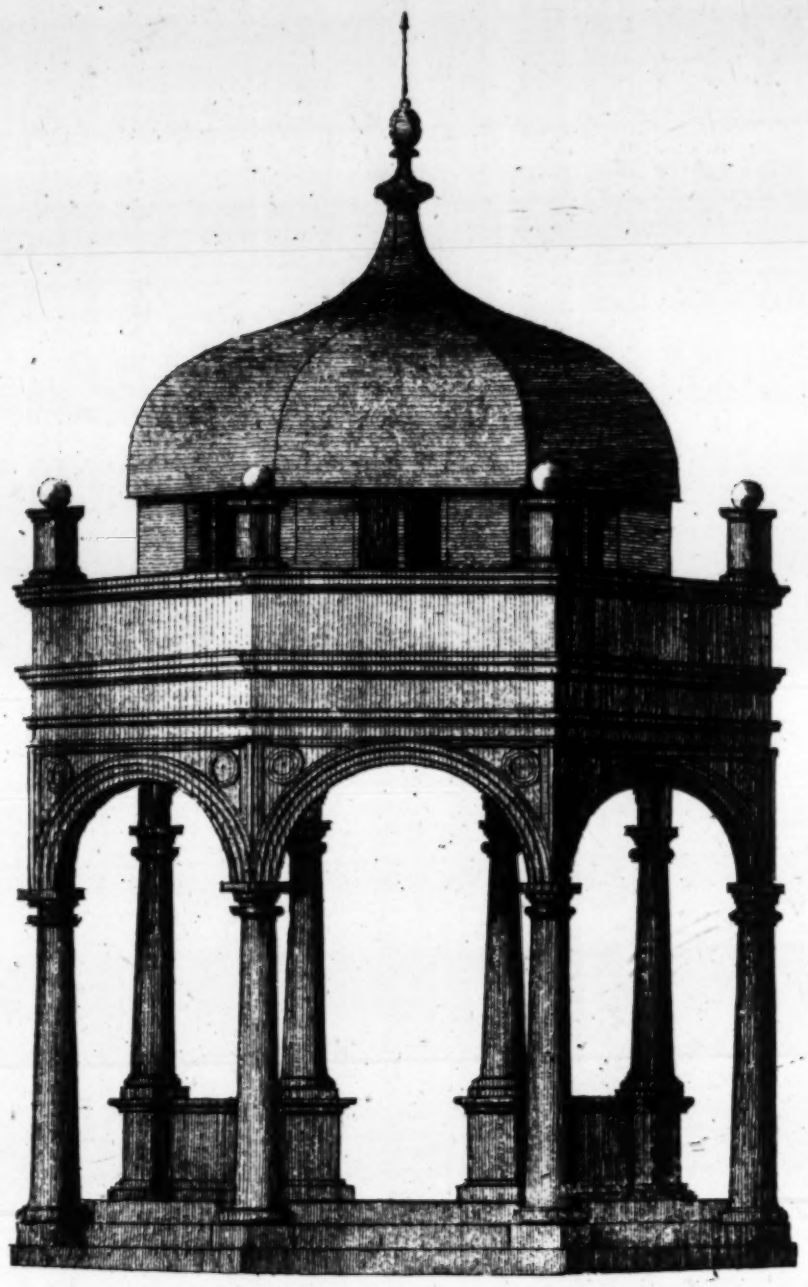
After this the bedſtead came into the hands of a ſervant of that inn, and before it came into the hands of Mr. Ald. Drake it had been many years in the Redcroſs ſtreet, where it had been cut to make it fit for a low room. The feet which were cut off were 2 feet 6 long, and each ſquare 6 inches. The preſent feet, any one may ſee by the engraving, are modern. I have the old feet in my poſſeſſion and the head board, which were taken from it when it was ſhortened. For my own part, I think it is not probable that the king would carry ſuch a bedſtead about with him; it ſeems more likely that the king was put on the beſt bed in the houſe, and that the money was ſecreted in ſome convenient and obſcure part of the bedſtead till his return, after the battle; or in the hurry of the preparation next morning it might be forgotten. In ſhort, I am of an opinion that half the money which has been found in old houſes was hidden during ſome violent troubles in the country, and through the ſudden death of the owner it has remained there till ſome change has taken place in the thing or houſe in which the money was hidden.

N.o 1





One of the feet
from Richard 2.d Bedstead



2

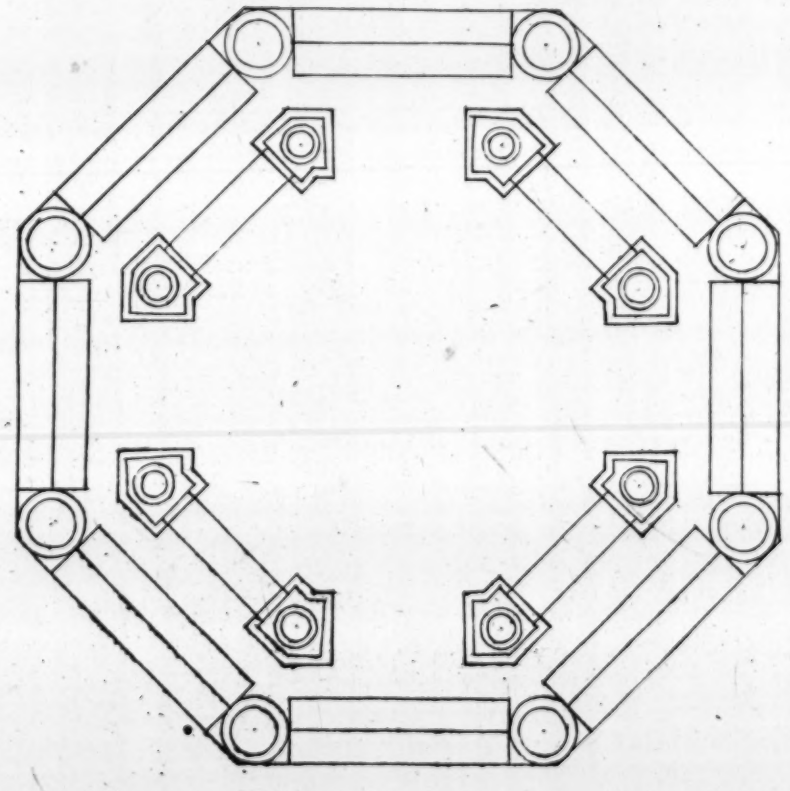




Fragment from
Richard 2.d Bedstead

3





4



LEICESTER *HIGH-CROSS*.

N.o 1, 2, 3, 4 were in Mr Lee's collection; 2, 3, 4 are of silver.

by the order of Richmond, the requeſt of the mayor and his brethren, or while the officer who brought the body could procure a fit place for its interment I know not. But this we are informed, from the beſt authority, that at the end of the ſecond day it was taken to the church of the Gray Friars, near St. Martin's church, and there buried in a ſtone coffin. From theſe circumſtances we may hazard an opinion which is probable; that the body lay at the town hall not to meet the inſults of the rabble; but only while a ſhell of ſtone was formed to contain it, at the expence of ſome who might deteſt the actions of the man while they pitied fallen majeſty. All were not like Richmond, who, while in the poſſeſſion of a complete victory, was totally deſtitute of that mercy and compaſſion which ennobles man!

Two days after the battle, Cateſby, Richard's confidential miniſter, with ſome others who were taken priſoners, without any ceremony or decency, were executed at Leiceſter.

Tradition informs us that the town's people of Leiceſter, with the promptitude with which the lower orders of mankind engage in every purpoſe that is either recommended by novelty or example, obliged the proprietor of the inn, where Richard ſlept, to change the White Boar, his ſign, for that of the Blue.

"The fluctuations of the human mind are remarkable; the tide of applauſe runs parallel with the tide of proſperity; when this falls, the voice of popular favour falls with it: While the houſe of York ſwayed the Britiſh ſceptre, the *white roſe* was held in repute, bloomed on the boſom of beauty, and on the ſign-poſt of the publican; but when that houſe fell, it faded with it, and from that moment was elevated no more. Even now, if ever we ſee the ſign of the roſe, it is always a red; nay, it was but recently, that this innocent and lovely flower recovered its priſtine credit; for in the conteſts between the houſes of Stuart and Brunſwick, it was ſuppoſed to be tainted with the ſmell of treaſon." (*a*)

In an act of attainder paſſed in 1485, it is recited that "Richard, late duke of Glouceſter, calling and naming himſelf by uſurpation

(*a*) Hutton.

king Richard III. with John duke of Norfolk, Thomas earl of Surrey, (and many others therein mentioned) the 21ſt day of Auguſt, the firſt year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord, aſſembled to them at Leiceſter, a great hoſt; traiterouſly intending, imagining and conſpiring the deſtruction of the king's royal perſon, our Sovereign Liege Lord. And they, with the ſame hoſt, with banners ſpread, mightily armed, and defenced with all manner of arms, as guns, bows, arrows, ſpears, gloves, axes, and all other manner of articles apt or needful to give and cauſe mighty battle againſt our Sovereign Lord, kept together from the ſaid 22d day of the ſaid month then next following, and then conducted to a field within the ſaid ſhire of Leiceſter, there by great and continued deliberation traiterouſly levied war againſt our ſaid Sovereign Lord and his true ſubjects, there being in his ſervice and aſſiſtance under a banner of our ſaid Sovereign Lord, to the ſubverſion of this realm, and commonweal of the ſame." By this act the above named perſons are declared traitors, and their eſtates forfeited, with ſome few exceptions to ſome particular perſons.

Henry VII. neither from motives of love nor compaſſion, we may apprehend, erected afterwards, over king Richard's remains, an ordinary alabaſter monument to his memory, on which was the figure of the king; but at the diſſolution of religious houſes, in the ſucceding reign, about 50 years after his death, it was ruinated with the church, the grave ranſacked, and his bones taken in triumph thro' the ſtreets; and at laſt thrown over the bridge over which he rode to the fatal battle of Boſworth, ſo called from its vicinity to Sutton field. The ſtone coffin which contained his body was ſold, or given, to an innkeeper, in whoſe poſſeſſion and his ſucceſſors it remained as an horſe trough till about the beginning of this century. The inn was the White Horſe in Gallow-tree-gate. I remember being ſhewn ſome fragments of it about the year 1760.

A repreſentation of this bridge I have given in the annexed plate, fig. 2. behind which peeps the little robber, Bow-bridge, which by the revolving of a few centuries has almoſt ſtolen its honours. Bow-bridge was trodden by the religious of the houſe of the Auguſtin or Black



Fig. 2.

King Richards Bridge taken in 1791.

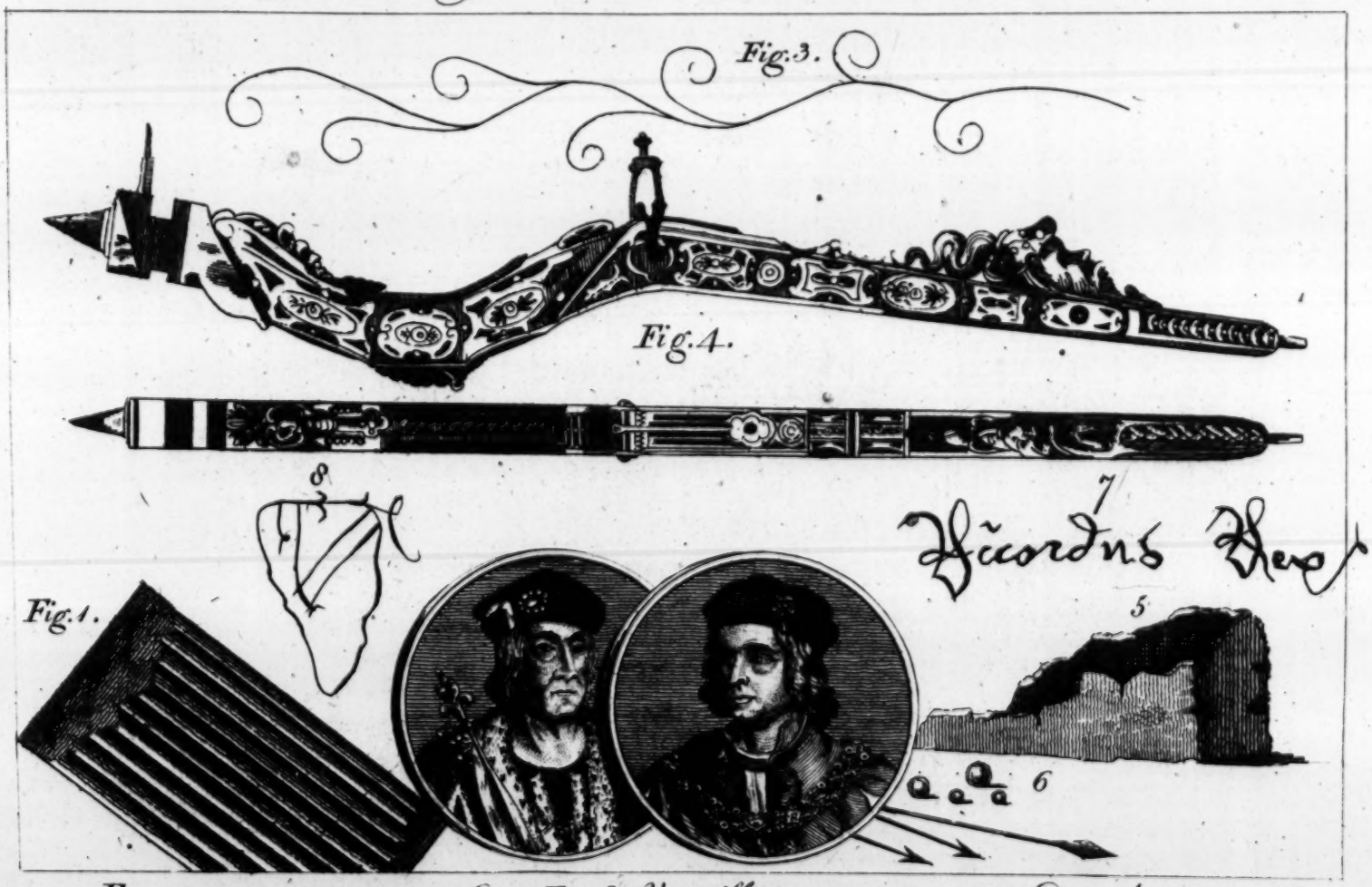


Fig. 1. is noticed in page 61. Fig. 3. Vermillion painting mentioned in the note page 61. Fig. 4. Handle of a Cross Bow found in Bosworth Field. Fig. 5. a fragment of Richard's Coffin. Fig. 6. Cannon Balls &c found in Sutton Field. 7. Richard's Signature. 8 Henry's Monogram, and their Portraits.



Black Friars, which nearly adjoined it; and was uſed as a private paſſage to and from the adjacent grounds; but the arches of this bridge, which ſpan the ancient river Soar, ſhould be ever memorable as the paſſage of one of the braveſt kings, that ever ſwayed a ſceptre, to the field of battle and his death, arrayed in martial glory panting for fame and victory. But Oh! how unſtable are life, power and even the envied ſplendour of the great; for in the evening of that fatal day it ſerved as a paſſage for his naked body alſo towards its humble grave, the deriſion of an inſulting rabble, whoſe very look or nod, when living, commanded ſilence, ſubjection and often death. And, at the diſtance of a few years, as if his bones were wedded to the ſpot whereon theſe venerable arches ſtand, it then became their final reſting place. (*a*)

1484, then *Robert Croſte* was mayor.

1485, *Thomas Swicke.*

HENRY VII.

I am now arrived at that period of the hiſtory of this ancient place, where I am to notice its government in a more particular manner than I have done in the preceding pages, when it put on a new form in conſequence of ſome irregularities that had taken place.

Since thoſe charters, &c. were granted which I have noticed in the preceding pages reſpecting Leiceſter, I find the following particulars. In inſtances where I print the original, or not, the reader will find a very free tranſlation, done merely to help the Engliſh reader to the meaning.

Claus. anno 11 *Hen. III. m.* 19. Leiceſtr'. perambulatio foreſte regis ibidem. By this we find that Leiceſter foreſt was perambulated long ago.

Eſtaet'

(*a*) *Speed*, by the plan he has given of the town of Leiceſter, which I have copied (ſee page 22) in part, for the purpoſe of poiming out his errors reſpecting the ſituation of the religious houſes, has occaſioned ſeveral reſpectable writers who have followed him to err materially. I ſhall, in conſequence, under the Section, *Religious Houſes and Hoſpitals*, endeavour to give each their proper name and ſituation, and ſhew in what he has erred.

Eſcaet' anno 30 *Hen. III. nu.* 40. Leiceſtr' Honor. Inquiſitio de omnibus terris, redditibus, et ſoodis militum que tenentur de dicto honore in comitatu Suſſex. Honor of Leiceſter. An inquiſition was taken of all lands, revenues and military fees which were held of the ſame honour in the county of Suſſex.

Claus' anno 29 *Ed. I.* Leiceſtr' de priſona in eadem villa conſtruend', pro priſona comitat', qui ante uſque gaolem Warwici duci ſolebant. This we find reſpects the building a priſon for the county of Leiceſter: the priſoners before that time were taken to the gaol of Warwick.

Claus' 3 *Ed. II. m.* 24. Leiceſtr.' Quod perſones ibidem cuſtodiend' ibidem, et non alibi. Perſons in cuſtody in the town of Leiceſter were to be impriſoned no where elſe.

Pat' anno 4 *Ed. III. Par. ſecunda. m.* 24. Leiceſtr' Vill. conceſs. pontagii per trienn.' pro reparacione pontis ibidem. A bridge tax was granted for three years for repairing a bridge at the ſame place." (*a*)

In the reign of Edward III. the town of Leiceſter obtained a grant for two fairs. The following is the purport of the original grant.

At the requeſt of our faithful and beloved relation, Henry, duke of Lancaſter, and earl of Leiceſter, who himſelf holds, and he, and his predeceſſors and others, who have been earls of Leiceſter time immemorial, have held, yearly, one fair at Leiceſter upon the invention of the Holy Croſs, and for fifteen days following. We are willing to grant that he and his heirs, in lieu thereof, may hold one other fair at the above town and ſuburbs, yearly, for ſeven days: that is to ſay, three days before the feaſt of St. Michael, the Archangel, and upon the feaſt day, and the three days next following, to remain chartered for ever. Provided that any inhabitant, or foreigner coming to the ſaid town and ſuburbs for the ſake of the ſaid fair with merchandize, &c. pay the fine or toll uſually paid for ſtallage, &c. to the ſaid duke of Lancaſter and his heirs. The old fair was altered at the ſpecial requeſt of the duke of Lancaſter. who then reſided at the caſtle. This new fair might be changed to another

(*a*) Moſt likely the bridge called now St. Sunday's.

another day, provided it interfered, at any time with a neighbouring fair. From this time the old fair was to ceaſe.

Dated the 2d day of July in the 34th year of our reign.

Another by the ſame king.

Know, &c. Out of our affection and love to our town of Leiceſter, and to our faithful and beloved, the mayor and burgeſſes there dwelling, and their ſucceſſors, do grant a certain fair at the ſame town, yearly, for ſeven days: that is to ſay, three days before the feaſt of the apoſtles Philip and James, and on the ſaid feaſt day, and three days next enſuing, to remain for ever. Here follow the conditions reſpecting the toll and ſtallage as in the grant above; that the people be ready to pay all fines and cuſtoms uſually paid. Further it wills and grants to the above mayor and burgeſſes, and their ſucceſſors, for ever, that they have the ordering and ſettling the ſtalls, and governing the fair ſolely.

This was granted the 2d of April in the 13th year of his reign.

The honour of Leiceſter is of high antiquity, has alſo a court leet held for the ſaid honour annually at Leiceſter, to which court all the men and tenants of the ſaid honour are ſummoned, and pay ſuit and ſervice; within which honour is the town and borough of Leiceſter.

The men and tenants of the ſaid honour have time immemorial been free, quit, and exempt from paying of toll for all their goods and things, in and throughout the realm of England, and had been ſo, ſo long ago as the 4th year of King Henry IV. for that king granted his letters mandatory, under the Great Seal of England, at the town of Leiceſter, the 24th day of May, in the 4th year of his reign, in hæc verba: "Henricus, Dei gratia, Rex Angliæ & Franc', & d'nus Hib'niæ, univerſis & ſingulis vicecomitib', majorib', ballivis, conſtabulariis, miniſtris, ac aliis fidelib' & ſubditis ſuis, tam infra libertates quam extra, ad quos præſentes l'ræ pervenerint, ſal'tm. Cum, ſc'dm conſuetudinem in regno n'ro Angliæ hactenus optentum & approbatum, homines & tenentes honoris de Leyceſtr', a tempore quo non extat memoria, quieti eſſe conſueverint a p'ſentatione theolonei, pontagii, picagii, muragii, panagii, ſtallagii, paſſagii, laſta-

gii, & carragii, p' bonis & rebus ſuis per totum regnum n'rum, vobis & cullib't v'rum præcipimus, firmit' injungentes, quod omnes & ſingulos homines & tenentes honoris prædicti de hujuſmod', theoloneo, pontagio, picagio, muragio, panagio, ſtallagio, paſſagio, laſtagio, & carriagio, vobis ſeu alicui v'rum p' bonis & rebus ſuis præſtand' quietos eſſe permitatis, juxta conſuetudinem ſupradictam, & p'ut ipſi inde quieti eſſe debent ipſique & anteceſſores hom'es & tementes honoris prædicti a tempore prædicto hactenus ronabilit' quieti eſſe conſueverunt. T. meipſo apud villam Leyceſtr', 24 die Maii, anno r'ni n'ri quarto. *Wymbyſh.*"

"King Edward VI. granted his letters mandatory, teſted at Weſtminſter, the 28th day of November, in the firſt year of his reign, in the ſame words as the former."

The men and tenants of the ſaid honour of Leiceſter have accordingly all along uſed and enjoyed the aforeſaid privileges and liberties of all places in England, without any hindrance or moleſtation, upon producing a certificate under the hand and ſeal of the mayor of Leiceſter, ſignifying that the perſon therein named was a freeman of Leiceſter, and as ſuch entitled to the aforeſaid privileges and liberties, when other perſons who have been in company have been obliged to pay toll. (*a*)

In

(*a*) The following certificate will explain this valuable grant from the crown.

The form of a certificate, as granted by the corporation of Leiceſter to a burgeſs in the mayoralty of Edmund Cradock, 1657, is this:

"To all chriſtian people to whom this preſent writinge ſhall come. The maior, bailiffs, and burgeſſes, of the burrough of Leiceſter, in the county of Leiceſter, ſend greetinge in our Lord God everlaſtinge. Know yee, that whereas, as well by letters pattents of Kinge John, ſometimes kinge of England, &c. bearing date the ſixe and twentyeth day of December, in the firſt yeare of his raigne; as alſo by divers other graunts, ſtatutes, and acts of parliament, of Edward the Third, Henry the Fourth, Henry the Fifth, Henry the Sixth, Edward the Fourth, Henry the Seaventh, ſometimes alſo kings of England; and alſo by divers other graunts, confirmations, ſtatutes, and conceſſions, of Henry the Eighth, Edward the Sixth, alſo ſometymes late kings of England; and of the lady Elizabeth, ſometymes queene of England; and of the late Kinge James; it is graunted, enacted, appoynted, eſtabliſhed, and confirmed, that all and ſinguler tenants of the honour of Leiceſter, holden of the Dutchy of Lancaſter, and more eſpecially the mair and burgeſſes of the burrough of Leiceſter, ſhall have, enjoy, and uſe (amongſt other things) their liberties, priviledges, and immunities following, that is to ſay, that they ſhall be quitt of all and all manner of toles, pannages, paſſages, laſtages, ſtallages, peſſages, pitchages, terrages, murages, carriages, and ſtannages, whatſoever, in and thorough the realme of England, as well by ſea as by land, for all their goods

In a marriage ſettlement of Henry VI. in the year 1444. That king gives to his intended conſort: The caſtle and the town of Leyceſtre

goods and merchandizes whatſoever, without any moleſtation, as by the ſaid letters pattents, graunts, ſtatutes, and confirmations, remainynge upon record, more at large it doth appeare. And becauſe many from tyme to tyme (as it is ſaid) doe clayme the ſaid liberties, priviledges, and immunities aforeſaid, which are not of the company of burgeſſes of the burrough of Leiceſter aforeſaid, nor ought to be quitt from ſuch toles and payments. Know yee therefore now moreover, that wee the ſaid maior, bayliffes, and burgeſſes, to you and every of you, by tenor of theis preſents, doe certifye that William Newton, vintner, is one of the burgeſſes of the burrough of Leiceſter aforeſaid, and that the ſaid priviledges and immunities, by force of the ſaid graunts and confirmations, freely and quietly hee ought to haue and enjoy; wee therefore again inſtantly by theis preſents doe deſire and require that the ſaid William Newton, and every other burgeſſe of the ſaid burrough of Leiceſter, freely and quietly you will ſuffer to goe and returne with their goods and merchandizes whatſoever, without any of your letts or moleſtations, or without takinge or clayminge of them, or any of them, any tole, pannage, paſſage, laſtage, ſtallage, peſſage, pitchage, terrage, murage, carriage, and ſtannage, contrary to the liberties and immunities aforeſaid, and for you and every of your more full ſatisfaction herein, that the ſaid William Newton is one of the burgeſſes of the ſaid burrough of Leiceſter as aforeſaid, wee make you theis and our letters teſtimoniall, and for the better ſtrengheninge and confirminge thereof, wee have hereunto put our common ſeale of the burrough of Leiceſter aforeſaid, dated at the Guildhall of the ſaid burrough of Leiceſter, the tenth day of March, in the year of our Lord, one thouſand ſixe hundred fifty and ſeaven. —— COLES, common clerke here,

EDM. CRADOCK, maior."

In the 11th year of Queen Anne, a cauſe was tried between George Bent, gent. (one of the men of Leiceſter) plaintiff, and Thomas Giſbourn, Eſq. mayor of Derby, and Iſaac Barker, his toll-gatherer, defendants, in an action of trover, for one heifer taken by defendants at Derby for non-payment of toll; which cauſe, by conſent of all parties, was tried at Nottingham, and the plaintiff ſucceeded therein; but the action being in trover, the point then in queſtion does not appear.

In another cauſe, tried in 1743, between Thomas Ayre, the younger, plaintiff, and John Hornbuckle, Eſq. mayor of Bedford, and John Marchant, his toll-gatherer, defendants, the following arguments were urged in the plaintiff's brief:

Mr. Ayre the plaintiff lives at Leiceſter, and is, and for ſeveral years paſt hath been, a very conſiderable grazier, and a freeman of the town of Leiceſter, and as ſuch entitled to the aforeſaid liberties and privileges; and it being neceſſary for him to take his cattle to divers fairs and markets in order to ſell them; therefore, that they might paſs and re-paſs unmoleſted upon account of toll, he obtained a certificate, dated the 25th of March, 1735, under the hand of William Bruſhfield, then mayor of Leiceſter, and under the common ſeal of the ſaid town of Leiceſter, ſignifying that he the ſaid Mr. Ayre was a freeman of Leiceſter, and as ſuch was entitled to the aforeſaid liberties and privileges; and Mr. Ayre hath, ſubſequent to ſuch certificate, taken his cattle to a great many fairs and markets, which have always been permitted to paſs and re-paſs toll-free, without any hindrance or moleſtation whatſoever, upon producing the ſaid certificate, until the inſtance now in queſtion.

Mr. Ayre the plaintiff ſent a drove of cattle to a fair held at Bedford the 8th of December, 1743; and having about ten or twelve of them undiſpoſed of, thought proper to ſend them to Newport Pagnell in the couuty of Bucks; and it being neceſſary for them to paſs over the bridge over the river Ouze at Bedford, in their road to Newport aforeſaid, that they might paſs over the bridge unmoleſted, delivered his certifi-

cate:

ceſtre with its honours and members in the county: among others it particulariſes the manors, &c. of *Deſſeford, Shulton, Hynkeley* and its borough, *Stapulford, Swannington, Foxſton, Smeton*, and *Langton*. (*a*)

A proviſo in 1467–8 that an act of reſumption "ſhall not in any wiſe be prejudicial or hurting unto our right well beloved ſervant, Richard Keſton, ſquier, of, to, or for the graunt by us to him made of a horſmilne and two meſſuages, with the appurtenances lying in a ſtreet called Swynemarket, within our town of Leyceſtre, not exceeding the yerely value of 8l. 16s. 8d. ne to Richard Keſtven, of or for a horſmilne and dyverſe tenementez, to hym graunted by our letters patentez, within oure towne of Leyceſtre; ne to Pyers Courteys and William Truſſel, of or for the loppes and croopes of woode, falled within our fryth of Leyceſtre, for the bruſyng of our dere there, or for reperacyon of the pale there, to them graunted by our letters patentez; ne to the maire and burgeis or com.^tee^ of oure towne of Leyceſtre, of or for 13l. 6s. 8d. to theym graunted, terme of 20 yeres by our letters patentez. (*b*)

The charter (or rather charters) which is printed in the note below, is preſerved in the Chapel of the Rolls, collated by the late Henry Rooke, Eſq. (*c*) It has for its object a regulation of the future

eate to defendant Hornbuckle, the mayor of the town of Bedford, for his peruſal and ſatisfaction, that he the ſaid Mr. Ayre was entitled to the ſaid liberties and privileges: but Hornbuckle, after he had kept the certificate ſome time for his peruſal, returned it, with anſwer that he ſhould order the cattle to be ſtopped upon refuſal of payment of toll for them; and on the next day, being the 9th of December, as plaintiff's ſervant was driving the cattle over the ſaid bridge, defendant Marchant ſtopped them, and would not permit them to paſs over without toll paid for them, although the plaintiff's ſaid certificate was then produced to him; but, after ſome diſpute, let them all paſs except the two ſteers in queſtion, which he ſtill ſtopped for the toll of the whole drove; and after ſome more time ſpent in diſputing about the toll, the reſidue of the drove being gone over the bridge along the road, plaintiff's ſervant was obliged to leave the ſaid two ſteers to the pleaſure of Marchant, and in his cuſtody upon or near to the ſaid bridge, in order to follow and take care of the others which were gone along the road. *Leiceſterſhire Collections.*

(*a*) Parliament Rolls. (*b*) Rot. Parl.

(*c*) *Leiceſter Coll.* Prima Paten' de anno Regni Regis Henrici Septimi Viceſimo. (m. 18)

R. omnibus ad quos, &c. ſalutem. Inſpeximus literas patentes domini E. nuper regis Anglie Quarti, majori & burgenſibus ville ſive burgi ſui Leyceſtr' factas, in hec verba: Edwardus, Dei gratia, rex Anglie & Francie & dominus Hibernie, omnibus ad quos preſentes litere pervenerint, ſalutem. Sciatis quod nos, volentes ſecuritati & quieti dilectorum ligeorum noſtrorum majoris & burgenſium ville ſive burgi noſtre

ture government of the town: It ſays after the uſual manner, Edward, by the grace of God, &c. to John Yoman, now mayor, (1462) and burgeſſes of the town of Leiceſter and their ſucceſſors: That the mayor and four of the moſt diſcreet brother burgeſſes (aldermen) out of the twenty-four, with one learned in the law, named a recorder, ſhall be juſtices of the ſaid town, and limits of the ſame, and have power to hear and determine on all crimes, and puniſh the offenders againſt the peace of the ſaid town and liberties thereof. And alſo at the general choice of officers, on the feaſt of St. Matthew, were to be choſen, annually, out of the twenty-four com-burgeſſes, two coroners; (whoſe office is too well known to be here recited) then follows the mode of appointing jurors, &c. Thus far reſpects the grant of Edward IV.——Then follows a confirmation grant of almoſt the whole of the charters heretofore granted for the government of this place, by Henry VII. (1504) Robert Orton then mayor. It empowers the juſtices, or a part of them, the recorder being one, to take cognizance of treaſons, murders, felonies, rapes, and other tranſgreſſions; whether riots or any other unlawful aſſemblies, and to puniſh the offenders. It alſo further notices that

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noſtre Leyceſtr', conceſſimus pro nobis & heredibus noſtris quantum in nobis eſt, & per preſentes concedimus, Johanni Yoman nunc majori ejuſdem ville ſive burgi & burgenſibus ejuſdem, ac ſucceſſoribus ſuis pro tempore exiſten', quod hujuſmodi major & quatuor de diſcreſcioribus comburgenſ' ville ſive burgi illius, in forma ſubſequend' eligend' & nominand', quamdiu in hujuſmodi officiis majoratus aut burgenſ' fuerint, cum uno legiſperito imperpetuo nominand' recordator Leyceſtr', ſint juſticiarii noſtri & heredum noſtrorum ad pacem infra villam ſive burgum predict', procinct' & limites ejuſdem ville ſive burgi, necnon ad ſtatuta & ordinaciones de artificib' & laboratoribus edit' conſervand' et cuſtodiri faciend' imperpetuum; et quod iidem major & quatuor comburgenſes ville ſive burgi illius pro tempore exiſtentes, tres vel duo eorum, cum dicto recordatore, plenam habeant correccionem, punicionem, poteſtatem, & auctoritatem cognoſcendi, inquirendi, audiendi, & terminandi omnes res & materias, tam de omnibus feloniis, tranſgreſſionibus, meſpriſionibus, & extortionibus, quam de omnimodis aliis cauſis, querelis, malefacis quibuſcumque, infra eandem villam ſive burgum, procinctum & limites ejuſdem, qualitercumque contingent ſive emergent', adeo plene & integre ſicut cuſtodes pacis noſtre & juſticiarii ad felonias, tranſgreſſiones, & alia malefacta audiend' & terminand', aſſign' & aſſignand', ac juſtic' ſervientum, laboratorum, & artificium in com. Leyc', extra villam ſive burgum ac procinctum predict' habent, ſeu in futur' qualitercumque habebunt; terminacionibus de omnimodis feloniis, ac de contrafactura, tonſura, & alia falſitate monete regni noſtri Anglie duntaxat exceptis. Et quod nullus cuſtos pacis, juſtic', aut commiſſionar' noſtri, vel heredum noſtrorum, ad premiſſa ſive aliquod premiſſorum in com' predicto audiend' & terminand' aſſign', in aliquo intromittat infra villam ſive burgum predict', aut procinct' & limites ejuſdem, ſeu extra eoſdem villam

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they ſhall have power to admit to bail, &c. It alſo appears by this part of the charter or charters, below, that all ſubſidies or taxes of the town were to be regulated by thoſe in the county; but they were to be collected by perſons in Leiceſter appointed by the corporation.

"A letter from King Henry VII. to the mayor, &c. of the burgh of Leyceſter, anno Domini 1488;" which was followed in 1489 by an act of parliament.

"Henry, by the grace of God, king of England and of France, and lord of Ireland. To our truſty and well-beloved the mayor, bailiffs, com-burgeſſes and burgeſſes of our town of Leyceſter, parcel of our duchy of Lancaſter, and to every of them greeting.

And forafmuch as we have been informed, that at every eleccion of the mayor there, or burgeſs of the parliament, or at any aſſeſſing of any lawfull impoſicion, the commonalty of our ſaid town, as well poor as rich, have always aſſembled at your town hall—whereas ſuch perſons as be of little ſubſtaunce or reaſon, and not contributores, or elſe full little to the charges ſuſteyned in ſuch behalf, and have had great intereſt, through theyr exclamations and redyneſs, to the

ſive burgum procinctum & limites ejuſdem, pro premiſſis aut aliquo premiſſorum infra villam ſive burgum predict' ac procinctum ejuſdem qualitercumque fact' ſive emergent', except' pre-except', nec infra villam ſive burgum predict', aut procinctum ejuſdem, aliquod officium ſuum de premiſſis ſive aliquo premiſſorum, exceptis preexceptis, infra dictam villam ſive burgum ac procinctum ejuſdem qualitercumque fact' ſive emergent' aliqualit' faciend', inquirend', vel exiquend', ingrediant, nec ingredi preſumant. Conceſſimus etiam eiſdem majori & burgenſibus & ſucceſſoribus ſuis, quod ipſi et ſucceſſores ſui, ſeu eorum aliquis, aut aliquis conſtabularius ville ſive burgi illius pro tempore exiſten', aut aliquis alius infra villam ſive burgum predict' commorans ſeu commoratur', non artentur neque compellantur, non artetur nec compellatur, ad comparend' coram aliquibus juſticiariis pacis noſtre vel hered' noſtrorum in com' predicto, vel coram juſticiariis noſtri vel heredum noſtrorum, ad felonias, tranſgreſſiones, & alia malefacta, in eodem com', audiend' & terminand', aſſign' vel aſſignand', aut aliquibus aliis juſticiariis vel commiſſionariis noſtri aut heredum noſtrorum, extra villam ſive burgum predict' ac procinctum & limites ejuſdem, neque infra eandem villam ſive burgum procinctum & limites ejuſdem, ad inquirend' vel aliquid aliud faciend' pro premiſſis vel aliquo premiſſorum infra eandem villam ſive burgum procinctum aut limites ejuſdem fact', emergent', ſive contingent', exceptis preexceptis, preterquam coram prefatis majore et quatuor de diſcreſcioribus comburgenſibus et ſucceſſoribus ſuis pro tempore exiſten' ut predict' eſt. Et ſi aliquis major, burgenſis, conſtabularius, vel aliquis alius infra dictam villam ſive burgum procinctum et limites ejuſdem reſidens, vel extunc reſidere contingens, exnunc ſum' aut impanelletur ad comparend' coram aliquibus hujuſmodi cuſtodibus aut juſtic' pacis labaratorum et artificium noſtri vel heredum noſtrorum in com' predicto, vel coram juſticiariis aut commiſſionariis

the ſubvercion, not only of the good polecy of our ſaid Towne, but lykely to the often breach of the peace, and other inconveniencys encreaſing and cauſing the fall, and miſery, and decline of our ſaid towne, and to the great diſcourage of you the governor thereof. For reformacion whereof, and to the intent that good rule and ſubſtantial order may be had, and entertayned there: From henceforth we will and ſtraitly charge you, and alſo command you the ſaid mayor, bailiffs, and twenty-four com-burgeſſes of our ſaid towne, now being, and that for the time that ſhall be, that at all common halls and aſſemblys hereafter to be holden there, as well for the eleccion of the mayor, of the juſtice of the peace, and burgeſſes of our parliament; as alſo at aſſeſſing of any lawful impoſicion or otherwiſe, ye jointly choſe and call unto you, our bailiff of our ſaid towne for the time being, and only forty-eight of the moſt wiſe and ſade *(ſage)* com-'ons inhabitants there, after your diſcretion of the ſame cominalty and no more; and you then to order and direct all matters occurrent, or happening amongſt you, as by your reaſon and conſcience ſhall be thought lawful and moſt expedient.

Given at our Pallace of Weſtmr. under our Seal of the ſaid Dutchy, the ſecond day of July, the 4th year of our reign. (In Counſel.)" *Corporation records.*

THE

commiſſionariis noſtris vel heredum noſtrorum, ad felonias, tranſgreſſiones, et alia malefacta ibidem perpetrata, audiend' et terminand', aſſign' vel aſſignand', exceptis preexceptis, et ipſe coram eis defalcam fecerit, vel ad jurand' ſui inquirend' de vel pro aliquibus articulis infra villam ſive burgum predict' fact' ſive perpetrat', exceptis preexceptis, recuſaverit, non propter hoc ponatur in contemptum, nec ullum deperditum aut gravamen erga nos vel heredes noſtros ex hac cauſa iucurrat. Et inſuper conceſſimus, et per preſentes concedimus, prefatis majori et burgenſibus et eorum ſucceſſoribus, quod iidem major et viginti quatuor comburgenſes ville ſive burgi predict', et eorum ſucceſſores pro tempore exiſten', de anno in annum in feſto Sancti Mathei Evangeliſte eligere poſſunt de ipſis viginti quatuor comburgenſibus predictos quatuor, diſcreſciores comburgenſ' eſſendi juſtic' noſtri et heredum noſtrorum, ad premiſſa ſive premiſſorum infra villam ſive burgum predict, procinctum et limites ejuſdem, exceptis preexceptis, cognoſcendi, inquirendi, audiendi, et terminandi, ac de eiſdem viginti quatuor comburgenſibus duos coronatores, qui officium coronatorum infra villam ſive burgum predict', procinct' et limites ejuſdem, fac' et exequent'. Et quod iidem coronatores ſic electi, et ſucceſſores ſui qui pro tempore erunt, imperpetuum habeant et exerceant officium coronatoris noſtri et hered' noſtrorum in villa ſive burgo predict', et procinct' ejuſdem, tam in preſencia noſtra et hered' noſtrorum quam in abſencia noſtra et hered' noſtrorum, in omnibus rebus, prout aliquo tempore ante dat' preſencium alliquis coronator noſter infra villam ſive burgum predict' ac procinctum ejuſdem officium

THE ACT.

"To the Kyng oure Sovereigne Lord. Foraſmoch as of late great dyvyſions and diſcordes have growen and been had, as well in the townes and bourghes of Leyceſtre and Northampton, as in other dyvers townes and burghes corporate within the realme of England, amongeſt the inh'itauntes of the ſame, for eleccion and choiſe of maires, and officers within the ſame, by reaſon that ſuch multitudes of the ſaid inhabitauntes, beying of litill ſubſtaunce and havour, and of no ſadnes, diſcrecion, wiſdome, ne reaſon, which oft in nombre excede in their aſſembles others that been approved, diſcrete, ſadde, and well diſpoſed perſones, have by their multitude, and their bandys, confederacies, exclamations, and heedneſſe, uſed in the ſaid aſſembles, cauſed great trobles, dyvyſions, and diſcordes amongeſt themſelfe, aſwell in the ſaid elections, as in aſſeſſyng the lawfull charges and impoſitions amongeſt theym, to the ſubverſyon of the goode rule, governaunce, and polytike demeanyng of the bourghes, and ofte tymes to the great brech of the kyngs peaſe within the ſame, to the fere, drede, and manyfold perills that therby may enſue. For reformacion wherof, and for the more quyet and reſtfullnes of the kyngs ſubgietts hereafter, and for the conſervacion of the kyngs peas,

officium coronatoris ibidem exercere conſuevit; ac eciam in omnibus aliis rebus infra eandem villam ſive burgum aut procinctum ejuſdem accident', contingent', ſive emergentibus in futur', que ad officium coronatoris quovis modo pertinent ſive ſpectant, et que ſi infra aliquem com' noſtrum Angl' acciderent aut emergerent per coronatores ſeu coronatorem ejuſdem com' exerceri, comperi, ſeu fieri deberent, adeo plene et integre, pacifice et quiete, prout iidem coronatores ſive coronator alterius com' regni noſtri Anglie hujuſmodi officium coronatoris et omnia alia officium illud tangencia occupant ſeu exercent, occupat ſeu exercet, aut occuparunt ſive exercuerunt, occupare ſeu exercere quovis modo legitime poterint vel poterit, in futur', ſine occaſione, impeticione vel impedimento noſtri, vel hered' noſtrorum, aut aliorum officiariorum ſeu miniſtrorum noſtrorum quorumcumque; ita quod nullus alius coronator noſtri vel hered' noſtrorum ſe pro aliquo ad officium coronatoris pertinens infra villam ſive burgum predict' ac procinct' ejuſdem emergent' ſive accident', aliqualit' intromittat, nec villam ſeu burgum illam ad aliquod ad officium coronatoris pertinet faciend' ingrediatur. Conceſſimus eciam, pro nobis et heredibus et ſucceſſoribus noſtris, prefatis majori et burgenſibus et eorum ſucceſſoribus, quod nec ipſi nec eorum aliquis ponatur neque ponantur, impanellentur neque impanelletur in aliquibus aſſiſis, juratis, inquiſicionibus, ſeu recognicionibus, licet tanget nos vel heredes noſtros, vel aliquos alios ligeos noſtros, nec jurentur nec onerentur, nec ullus eorum juretur ſeu oneretur ſuper triacione arraiamenti alicujus aſſiſe ſive panelli coram aliquibus juſtic' ſeu commiſſionariis noſtris vel hered

peas, more fermely to be obſerved and kept, it is ordeyned, eſtabliſshed, and enacted, by the advyſe and aſſent of the lords ſp'uall and temporall, and com'ons, in this preſent parliament aſſembled, and by auctorite of the ſame, that from hensforth the eleccions of maires and other officers, and alſo the aſſeſſyng of all lawfull charges and impoſitions, that hereafter ſhall be made and had in the bourgh of Leyceſtre, ſhall be had, made, and uſed, after the fourme following: that is to ſay, the maire of the towne of Leyceſtre and his brethren, for the tyme beyng, or the more part of theym, upon their othes and diſcreſſions, ſhall name and choſe XLVIII perſones, of the moſt wiſe, diſcrete, and beſt diſpoſed perſones of the inhabitauntes within the ſaid towne, and the ſame perſones, or part of theym, from tyme to tyme herafter to chaunge, when, and as ofte as they, or the more parte of theym, ſhall ſeme moſt neceſſarie and behovfull; which perſons, ſo by them choſen and named, and the ſaid maire and his brethren, or the more parte of theym, ſhall have and make yerly elleccions of all the maires that herafter ſhall be maires of the ſaid bourgh and towne, and elleccions by them, or the more parte of theym ſo made, to ſtand and be goode and effectuall in lawe, yerly herafter for ever to endure, in lyke maner, fourme, and condition, as yf the elleccions were made by ſuche way, maner,

hered' noſtrorum, de vel pro aliqua re, cauſa, vel materia quacumque, extra villam ſive burgum predict' emergent' ſive contingent', capiend' extra villam ſive burgum predict'. In cujus rei teſtimonium has literas noſtras fieri fecimus patentes. Teſte meipſo apud Wodeſtoke, viceſimo quarto die Auguſti, anno regni noſtri quarto." Nos autem, literas predictas ac omnia & ſingula in eiſdem contenta rata habentes & grata, ea pro nobis & heredibus noſtris, quantum in nobis eſt, acceptamus & approbamus, & dilecto & fideli ſervienti noſtro Roberto Orton nunc majori, & burgenſibus dict' ville ſive burgi, tenore preſentium, ratificamus et confirmamus, prout litere predicte in ſe rationa biliter teſtantur. Et ulterius, de uberiori gratia noſtra, ac ad inſtantiam & ſpecialem requiſicionem dilecti & fidelis ſervientis noſtri Roberti Orton nunc majoris ville ſive burgi predict', necnon ob ſingularem affeccionem & dileccionem quas penes predict' majorem & burgenſes ſive inhabitantes predicte ville ſive burgi gerimus & habemus, ac pro conſervacione pacis noſtre, ac ſano regimine & pro bono reipublice ville & burgenſ' ſive inhabitantium predictorum augend', dedimus & conceſſimus, ac per preſentes literas noſtras dam' & condim', pro nobis & heredibus noſtris, quantum in nobis eſt, prefat' nunc majori & burgenſibus ville predicte, ſuburb' & procinct' ejuſdem, & ſucceſſoribus ſuis majoribus ſive burgenſibus predictis, quod de cetero dict' nunc major ejuſdem ville, & ſucceſſores ſui qui pro tempore erunt, ac quatuor de diſcrecioribus burgenſ' ejuſdem ville, ſimul cum majore & recordatore ejuſdem ville, ſint cuſtod' & juſtic' pacis noſtre, & heredum & ſucceſſorum

noſtrorum

and fourme, as aforetyme hath been uſed and accuſtumed, in, of, and for, the ſame eleccions in the ſame bourgh; and that the voices of every other perſone or perſones, other than been before reherced, in all elleccions within the ſaid towne, as to choyſyng any officers of the ſame, be voide, and of none effecte in the lawe. And over this, that all other officers of the ſaid towne, that by dutie of their offices owe to be attendant upon the maire and maires that nowe be, or that herafter in the ſaid bourgh ſhall be electe, choſen, and made, only by the ſaid maire and his brethren for the tyme beying, or the more parte of theym, without aſſemble of any other perſones, inhabitauntes of, in, or for the ſame. Provyded always, that yf in the ſaid elleccions, or any of theym, the voices be evenly divided and equall for ſondry parties, then the voice of the maire for the tyme beyng, to ſtand and be reputed for II voices in the ſame election; and yf any eleccion or elections herafter happe to be made, of maire or maires in the ſaid towne, in other wiſe then in this acte afore is reherced, then that elleccion or elleccions to be taken voide, and of no ſtrength ne effect. And ovet this, be yt ordeyned by the ſaid auctorite, that yf any of the inhabitauntes nowe beyng, or that herafter ſhall be inhabited in the ſaid borough and towne, attempte or do to the breche impedyment, or lett, of this preſent acte; and then the ſaid perſone

or

noſtrorum, infra villam predictam, ſuburb' & procinctum ejuſdem, quorum dict' recordator ejuſdem ville pro tempore exiſten' erit unus, ad omnia ordinaciones et ſtatuta apud Weſtm', Wynton', et Norhampton, pro conſervacione pacis noſtre, heredum & ſucceſſorum noſtrorum, necnon ad ſtatuta & ordinaciones ibidem & alibi de venatoribus, operaiis. artificibus, ſervitoribus, hoſtellariis, ponderibus, menſuris, vendicione victualium, mendicantibus & vacabundis, ac aliis ho'ibus mendicantibus qui ſe no'iant Travelyngmen, ac ad ſtatuta & ordinaciones apud Weſtm' anno regni Henrici Quarti nuper regis Anglie primo & ſecundo, de libertat' ac al libertat' pannorum minime dand', nec eiſdem libertat' aliqualit' utendis, et de omnibus feloniis, murdris, & aliis malefactoribus; ac ad quoddam aliud ſtatutum de contrafactura, tonſura, lotura, & al' falſitat' alicujus monete edit' ſive fact', predict' excepcione de hujuſmodi terminacionibus de omnimod' feloniis, ac de contrafactur', tonſur', lotur', et aliis falſitat' monete regni noſtri Anglie duntaxat exceptis, in dictis literis patentibus domini Edwardi nuper regis Anglie Quarti content' & ſpecificat' in contrar' inde fact' non obſtantibus; ac ad omnia & ſingula alia ſtatuta & ordinaciones pro bono pacis, et quiete, regimine et gubernacione populi noſtri edit', et impoſterum edend', de et in omnibus ſuis articulis, juxta vim, formam, et effect' eorundem, infra dictam villam Leyc', ſuburb' et procinctum ejuſdem, cuſtodiend' et cuſtodiri, faciend', inquirend', audiend', et terminand', ac ad omnes illos quos contra formam ordinacionum et ſtatutorum predictorum, aut eorum alicujus delinquent' invenerunt caſtigand' et puniend', caſtigareve

or perſones to forfeite the ſum'e of x*l*. the moite therof to be to the kyng, and the other moite to be to the maire of the ſaid towne for the tyme beyng, to employe to the charges of the ſaid towne. And that it ſhall be lefull to the maire of the ſaid bourgh and towne for the tyme beyng, to co'mytte every ſuch perſone or perſones, troblyng or lettyng the ſaid elleccion, to priſon within the ſame towne, and there to remayne without baille or maynprize, till the ſaid ſomme or ſommes of money be fully levyed and paide, Cui quidem bille perlecte & intellecte per d'num regem, auctoritate & aſſenſu prædictis, ut ſequitur reſpondebatur, " Le Roy le vuelt."

The following is from a record in the poſſeſſion of the Corporation, written in rather an illegible hand, a little alteration I have made in ſome few of the words. It ſeems to glance at the battle of Bosworth field.

Henry by the g'ce of god kynge of England & of france, and lord of Ireland. To all to whom theſe oure (will) ſhall be ſhewed gretynge. knowne ye that in conſideration of the true and faithful farvice that the mayers and burgeſſes of our towne of Leyceſter, have don unto us & hereafter intend to doo, and alſo the gret coſtes and charges that they have ſuſteigned and borne by anye commandement in o'r journees——& battailles: and the coſtes that they dyde & made

reve et punire faciend' prout ſecundum formam et effect' ordinationum et ſtatutorum eorundem predicta, excepcione non obſtant', fuerit faciend'; et ad omnes illos qui aliquibus de populo noſtro infra villam predictam, ſuburb et procinctum, ejuſdem, minas fecerent de corporibus ſuis, vel de incendio domorum ſuarum, ad ſufficientem ſecuritatem de pace et bono geſtu ſuo, erga nos, heredes et ſucceſſores noſtros pro tempore exiſten', et cunctum populum noſtrum inveniend', coram eis ſeu eorum duobus, per debitam legis formam venere faciend'; et ſi hujuſmodi ſecuritates invenire recuſaverint, tunc eos in priſona noſtra ville predicte, quouſque hujuſmodi ſecuritates invenerint, ſalvo cuſtodiri faciend'. Volumus etiem et concedimus prefatis nunc majori et burgenſibus et ſucceſſoribus ſuis, quod dicti major, recordator, et alii quatuor burgenſ' ejuſdem ville pro tempore exiſten', ſex, quinque, quatuor, tres, et duo eorum, quorum recordator ejuſdem ville pro tempore exiſten' omnino erit unus, de tempore in tempus futur' temporibus ſint et erunt juſtic' noſtri, heredum et ſucceſſorum noſtrorum, ad inquirend' per ſac'rm proborum et leg' hom' de villa predicta et ſuburb' ac procinct' ejuſdem, per quos rei veritas melius ſciri poterit, de omnibus proditionibus, murdris, feloniis, raptibus mulierum, et aliis feloniis quibuſcumque, ac de quibuſcumque tranſgreſſionibus, riotis, routis, et conventiculis illicitis, imbraciariis, manutenenciis, ambidextriis, extorcionibus, confederacionibus, conſpiracionibus, tranſgreſſionibus, regratariis et foreſtallariis, infra villam predictam, ſuburb' et procinctum ejuſdem, per quoſcumque et qualitercumque fact' ſive perpetrat', et exnunc fieri ſive perpetrari

made upon oure comitas wounded and mayned in the field to ther coſte and charge of clxxxlb and to thentent that they ſhuld be ſtronger Hartſtuze, better to kepe o'r lawes and (porperty) wit'n o'r ſaid towne. And alſo that the ſaid mairs and burgeſſes ſhall ſupport and helpe to be kept our marcatt on Wedneſday, ffryday & Satturday ev'y weke ther to be holden; and for the effection that we have and bore to our ſubieces of our ſaid Town for ther prudence and Hy merits reherſed——wee of our grace eſpeciall have geven and graunted unto the mayer and burgeſſes and ther ſucceſſurs an annuite and annuele rent of—xxlb ſterling to be hade and receive yearly frome the feaſt of ſaint michell the Ac'angele laſt paſſed——for the tyme of every yere then next enſuyng, by the hand of our Recorder and Baylyff of our ſaid towne and gouo's of Leiceſter for tyme beinge at the feaſt of the Bap'z and of Saint Mychell the Ac'angele by even porcyence in witnes whereoff we have done to be made this oure l'res patentz, geven at oure Cite of London under oure ſeall of our ducy the xii day of ffebarare the thyrd yere of our Reigne.

In the ſame book are the old oaths of the mayor and his brethren, as follow.

" I ſhall Maynteyne the peace of oure lord the kinge; and the affrayers ther agengſt and the diſturbers theroff, I ſhall do *(cauſe)* to be

trari contingen', necnon ad omnia indictamenta quecumque ad hujuſmodi tranſgreſſiones et alia malefacta quecumque infra villam predictam, et ſuburb' ac procinctum ejuſdem, coram prefat' majore, recordatore, ſex, quinque, quatuor, et tribus eorum, audiend' et terminand', quorum recordator ejuſdem ville pro tempore exiſten' erit unus, juſtic' noſtri et hered' et ſucceſſorum noſtrorum, de premiſſis ſeu aliquo premiſſorum, ac ad proceſſus inde faciend' verſus omnes quos coram juſtic' noſtris et heredum et ſucceſſorum noſtrorum, de premiſſis ſeu aliquo premiſſorum, de cetero ind'cari contigerit, quoſque capiantur, reddantur, vel utlagentur, faciend' et continuand', necnon ad omnia et ſingula que contra formam ordinationum et ſtatutorum predictorum, ſeu in evac'oem eorundem, ſeu eorum alicujus, infra villam predictam, ſuburb' et procinctum ejuſdem, fact', perpetrat', ſeu attemptat' fuerint, et que ibidem impoſterum fieri, perpetrari, ſeu attemptari contigerit, tam ad ſectam noſtram quam aliorum quorumcunque, coram eiſdem juſtic', pro nobis, heredibus et ſucceſſoribus noſtris, aut pro ſe ipſis, conqueri aut proſequi volencium, audiend', ac ſecundum legem et conſuetudinem regni noſtri Anglie, ac juxta formam ordinationum et ſtatutorum predictorum terminand', in tam ampl' modo et forma, prout aliqui alii juſtic' pacis noſtre, hered' et ſucceſſorum noſtrorum, alibi in aliquo com' regni noſtri Anglie inquirere, audire, ſeu terminare poſſint et poterint, necnon tranſgrſſion' forſtaller' predict', ac omnia alia ſuperius ad determinand', non declarat' ad ſectam noſtram tamen, et ad omnia alia que virtute aliquorum ordinationum ſive ſtatutorum, per cuſtodes pacis

be areſt and punyſhe as the law woll. I ſhall Maynteyne the aſſiſe of Brede, wyne & ale, and all other maner of vitaylles, and the Treſpaſours with them I ſhall punyſhe as the law woll. I ſhall aſſey all maner of weyghts and meaſures, and the fals I ſhall damjge and the treſpaſours wt them I ſhall punyſhe as the law woll. I ſhall ſuffer no fforſtallor nor Regrator dwell wt'ne this Towne, nor the ffanchiſes of the ſame, I ſhall do evry ryght, as well to the poure as to the ryche, and all other good cuſtomes and ffranncheſſz of thys Towne I ſhall ſupport and Maynteyne Durynge the Tyme of myn offyce, ſo helpe me God and all Seyntes."

" The Othe of the Mayers Brether': (The Aldermen,) from the ſame.

" Thys here youe Mayer, and juries, and the Brethren of the Gilde, that I ſhall yelde lawfull jugement, I ſhall do lawfully as well to the poure as unto the riche & Punyſhe after the greteneſſ of their Treſpas. I ſhall Come contynually to the Courte of Portmote; and at ——— (commands) of my Mayer whan I ſhall be warnyde by his officers if I be in the Towne, without reſonable excuſe. And that I ſhall Maynteyne lawfully the aſſiſe of Brede, wyne and Ale, and all other vytaulles with my Mayer. And I ſhall maynteyne the ffranuches and good Cuſtoms of this Towne, and the ſame kepe, So helpe me God and all Seyntes."

X

" The

cis noſtre, heredum et ſucceſſorum noſtrorum, ac juſtic' noſtros, heredum et ſucceſſorum noſtrorum, hujuſmodi diſcuti et terminari debent audiend' et terminand'; et ad quoſcunque contra formam ordinationum et ſtatutorum predictorum, ſeu eorum alicujus delinquent', per fines, redempciones, et amerciamenta, ac alio modo pro delictis ſuis caſtigand' et puniend', prout ante ordinacionem et punicionem corporal' hujuſmodi delinquentibus pro delictis ſuis exhibend' fact' fieri conſuevit alibi infra regnum noſtrum Anglie pertinent ſeu pertinebunt, faciend', exercend', audiend', et terminand', ſalvis nobis, heredibus et ſucceſſoribus noſtris, finibus, recognicionibus, redempcionibus, exitibus, et amerciamentis, nobis, heredibus et ſucceſſoribus noſtris, ratione juſtic' predict', in ſingulis ceſſionibus ipſorum majoris, recordatoris, et aliorum noſtrorum predictorum in hac parte nob' adjudicand' et afferand' ſive pertinen'. Volumus tamen quod predicti juſtic' noſtri, et eorum quilib', de et ſuper ſingulis finibus et exitibus in ceſſionibus predictis forisfacturis et affidend' habeant, et eorum quilib' habeat, tanta vad' et feod', prout ſinguli juſtic' et cuſtodes pacis in dicto com' Leyc' juxta formam ſtatut' inde edit h'entis percipiunt, licet offic' juſtic' in villa ſive burgo predict' poſt ſtatut' predictum ordinat' pro hujuſmodi vadiis percipiend' per dictum progenitorem noſtrum ordinat' fuerit. Et quod aliqui alii juſtic' pacis noſtre, hered' aut ſucceſſorum noſtrorum, aut aliqui alii juſtic', hered' aut ſucceſſorum noſtrorum, aliqua ordinat' et ſtatut' de premiſſ' aut aliquo premiſſo-

rum

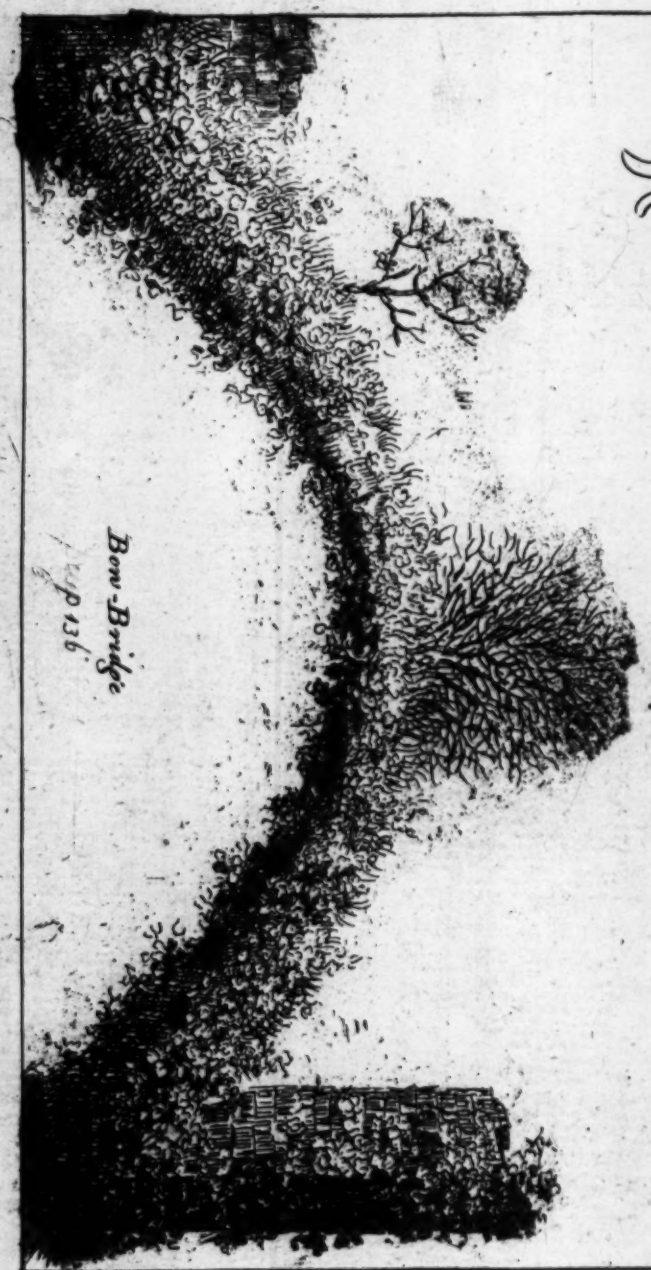
" The Othe of the Chamberlaynes (from the ſame)

We ſhallbe ffaithfull and trewe offycers unto oure Maſter the Mayer; diligent of attendance at altymes, lawfull obedient to his Commandement and Redy to do his pleſure. We ſhall emprove the livelode *(income)* belonging unto the Coiatie *(community)* of this Towne of lyceſter to the moſt behove of the ſame Towne; and the tennet *(tenements &c.)* therof we ſhall ſuffyciently Reparell durynge our office. We ſhall endevour us alſo for to emprove the Chapman Gild to the utmoſt of oure powers. We ſhall be attendant at the Cornwall on the Setturdaye durynge aur yere, and the ſame to aure powers we ſhall order, and all the Traunſpers that ther may be ffounde we ſhall preſent to aure Maſter, the Mayer; and all horſſes and mares that ther may be ffound wee ſhall cauſe them to be hade from the Cornwall, and out of the market place, And moreover we ſhall well and truely & dyſcharge aur ſelf of all lond & Rent belonginge to this Towne and of the chapmans Gild, and of all other money as ſhall come to aure and belonginge rent unto the Coiatie *(community)* of this Towne, and therof a trewe accompt ſhall yelde up unto the auditoury aſſigned in the yue *(courſe)* of aure yere; and all other things in full, that belongeth or pertayninge to aur offices, well and truly to aur powers we ſhall do. So helpe we God and all Seynte.

The

rum edit' ſive ordinat', infra villam predictam, ſuburb' et procinctum ejuſdem, emergen' ſive contingen', aut ad aliqua premiſſorum, aut ad aliquod officium de aut pro eiſdem ſeu eorum aliquibus ibidem exercend', faciend', ſeu exequend' in aliquo ibidem, ſe non intromittant, nec eorum aliquis ſe intromittat, aut aliquam juriſdictionem inde habeant ſeu exerceant. Et ulterius, de uberiori gratia ſciencia et mero motu n'ris, dedimus et conceſſimus, ac per preſentes damus et concedimus, prefat' nunc majori ville ſive burgi predict' et burgenſibus predictis, et ſucceſſoribus ſuis, quod quandocumque et quocieſcumque acciderit ſeu contigerit ex nunc unquam in futur' aliquam quintam decimam et decimam, quotam, taxam, auxilium, ſubſidium, aut annuam vel certam pecunie ſummam, vel alia onera quecumque quocumque nomine aut forma concedantur aut concedi contigerint nobis, heredibus aut ſucceſſoribus noſtris regibus Anglie, per communitatem noſtri Anglie, ac per cives et burgenſes civitatum et burgorum ejuſdem regni, auctoritate parliamenti ſive communis conſilii, aut aliter quovismodo, et ex quacumque urgente cauſa, nobis ſive heredibus vel ſucceſſoribus noſtris, concedi, preſtari, aut conferri ullo modo, quod ſuper moderacione, taxacione, ordinacione, aſſeſſione, collectione, levacione, recepcione, et percepcione omnium et ſingularum ſive alicujus aut aliquarum hujuſmodi quintarum quintarum, decimarum, quotarum, taxarum, auxiliorum, ſubſidiorum, aut annue vel certe pecunie ſumme cujuſcumque, vel alicujus inde parcell', aut aliorum onerum quorumcumque, nullus aut nulli commiſſionariorum, moderatorum, aſſeſſatorum, ordinatorum, vel taxatorum, in predicto

Copy of the old Oaths.



Bow-Bridge
p 136



We shall
Mayer
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T

BRITISH MUSEUM

The oath of the chapman of the Gild *i e.* the 48 or common-councel. Is that they ſhall duly keep the lawful cuſtoms of the Gild, and vote with them of the Gild, whether they dwell in the borough or biſhop's fee. &c.

The oath of the *Recorder* is written by a different hand, and is verry ſhort: the purport of which is that he ſwears to do equal juſtice to the poor and rich.

The *Conſtable's* oath is like that given now. In which he ſwears to give "true othe unto the wachman."

That the "ffree-borowe" (Third-borough) beſides the uſual part of his office he was to warn the watchman for the night.

The "Clark (Town-Clerk) and Sargeant" were ſworn to ſecrecy; and to be true and faithful officers to their "Maſter the Mayer for his yeare being, and to his deputy in his abſens."

Such were the oaths and the nature of ſome of them, adminiſtered about this time, reſpectively, to the members and officers of the corporation of Leiceſter. I have inſerted them for their antiquity. They are written illegibly; but where I have conceived words not correctly tranſcribed, I have given the meaning in a parentheſis.

I have met with no oath adminiſtered to the Bailiff who, as I obſerved before, claims high antiquity. The corporation are addreſſed as a body

dicto com' Leyc', pro corpore ejuſdem com' aſſignat' ſive aſſignand' in ea parte, de cetero aſſignetur ſive aſſignentur per commiſſionem regiam noſtri, hered' aut ſucceſſorum noſtrorum, ſive per aliud mandatum regni quodcumque, ad moderand', taxand', ordinand', ſive aſſidend' aliquem ſive aliquos burgenſ', commorantes ſive inhabitantes aut reſidentes infra villam ſive burgum predict' et ſuburbia ejuſdem, pro bonis, catalles, terris, ten', aut rebus ſuis, infra villam ſive burgum predict' aut ſuburb' ejuſdem ad tunc exiſten', ſive ex tunc exiſtere contingen', cum hundredis, burgis, villis, villatis, terris, ten', et hamelettis, perſonis, bonis, catallis, terris, aut ten', infra dict' com' Leyc' exiſten', ut parcell' oneris ejuſdem com' contributor' ſive onerand'; ſed volumus, ordinamus, et tenore preſencium, quantum in nobis eſt, pro nobis, heredibus ac ſucceſſoribus noſtris, ſtabilimus, ac per preſentes concedimus, prefatis nunc majori et burgenſ' ville ſive burgi predict', et ſucceſſoribus ſuis, quod prefatus major ejuſdem ville ſive burgi nunc exiſtens, ac ſinguli ſucceſſores ſui, major ibidem pro tempore exiſten', et qui exnunc pro tempore fuerit, ac quatuor probiores, diſcreciores et ſagaciores burgenſes ejuſdem, eidem majori pro tempore exiſten' aſſociand', per nos, heredes ac ſucceſſores noſtros pro temqore exiſten', per commiſſionem regiam, de tempore in tempus, cum hujuſmodi caſus evenerit, aut conceſſiones hujuſmodi fieri contigerint, in premiſſis aſſignentur, et poteſtatem ac auctoritatem de cetero imperqetuum habeant infra villam ſive burgum predict', ad ordinand', moderand', taxand', et aſſidend', per ſcipſos, majorem, et quatuor diſcreciores viros ville ſive burgi

body by the names of Mayor Bailiffs &c. altho' there is but one Bailiff: this officer is called the king's Bailiff, and was, prior to the office of Mayor, called the earl's Bailiff. He holds his place for life and is choſen alternately by the earls of Huntingdon and the 24 aldermen. The Huntingdon family obtained this privilege from James the firſt. The office whatever it might have been, is now, in a great meaſure, honorary; excepting that the Gentleman who holds it is returning officer, in conjunction with the mayor, at elections for Members to ſerve in parliament.

1488, *Thomas Davy* was Mayor and ſerved till
1490, then *Roger Trigg.*
1491, *William Gibſon.*
1492, *Thomas Swicke.*
1493, *Robert Crofte.*
1494, *Thomas Snarſte.*
1495, *Andrew Langton.*
1496, *William Rawlet.*
1497, *Richard Gilliot.*
1498, *William Wigſtone* till
1500, *William Gibſon.*
1501, *Roger Trigge.*

1502,

burgi predict' ſic aſſignand', ex commiſſione regia, ſeparatos a commiſſionar' corporis dicti com' Leyc' exnunc aſſignand' ſuper et in ſingulis hujuſmodi conceſſionibus, oneracionibus, et preſtacionibus quintarum decimarum, decimarum, quotarum, taxarum, auxiliorum, ſubſidiorum, aut alterius contribucionis vel oneris cujuſcumque, nobis, hered' aut ſucceſſoribus noſtris fiend', et quibuſlibet inde parcell', omnes et ſingulos burgenſ', reſidentes, commorantes et inhabitantes ville ſive burgi illius et ſuburbia ejuſdem pro tempore exiſten', pro rata et porcione ſua bonorum, cattallarum, terrarum, et ten' ſuorum, infra villam ſive burgum ill' contingen' de jure contributorum et onerabil', taxand' ſive apporcionand' vel affidend', videlicet, ad quamlibet integram quintam decimam et decimam, viginti et unam libris, taxa ejuſdem ville nobis et heredibus noſtris ſolvend' ultra ſummam centum et treſdecim ſolidorum et quatuor denariorum, pro taxa ville ſive burgi illius in ſingulis ſolucionibus hujuſmodi deducend', et eiſdem burgenſibus, ac eorum collectoribus inde deputand' allocand', prout villa ſive burgus predict' antiquitus ſit contribuere et taxari, ac in deductione ſua predicta exonerari aut allocari hactenus pro parte et porcione ejuſdem ville ſive burgi conſuevit cum dicto corpore tocius com' Leyc' ſupradicti, dum eidem corpori ipſius com' Leyc' in collectione et ſolucione ſua contributor' fuit. Et volumus ac ordinamus quod nos, hered' ac ſucceſſores noſtri, ac quilibet n'rm ſingulas commiſſiones noſtras majori et quatuor diſcrecioribus burgenſibus dicte ville ſive burgi pro tempore exiſten', pro ſingulis talibus taxacionibus, deputacionibus, et nominacionibus collectorum infra villam

1502, *William Friſby.*
1503, *John Norrice.*
1504, *Robert Orton.*

" At a Com'n hall halden at Leiceſt'r the 21ſt day of Septemb'r the 21ſt yere of o'r Sov'aign King Henry VII. It is agreed Stablyſhed & affarmed & gyfted by Robt. Orton then Mair of the ſaid Towne his brethren & the 48 in the name of the holle body of the ſame Towne to free Will'm Ceyton."

" of the Black ffrerys of Leic' bey'ing that tyme and to all his Succeſſors for ever the Paſture of 2 kye in o'r commynalte callyd ye kowe hey to be as free as any of us w'thout lete ympedyment of eny of us for the which he gaffe us xx*s* and he and his howſe to pray forus forever In Witneſs of the ſame we gyffe unto hym & his howſe o'r ſeale of office there beying Chamberlens Will'm Mellow & W'm Burgen." *(Corporation Records.)*

1505, *Richard Reynold.*
1506, *John Woze.*
1507, *Waller Maye.*
1508, *Miles Lambert.*

lam ſive burgum ill' deputand' dirigi faciemus exequendas; ita quod de cetero imperpetuum ville ſive burgus predict', ac omnes et ſinguli majores, burgenſes, reſident', commorantes, et inhabitantes ejuſdem et ſuburb' inde de ſolucione quinte decime et decime predict', et aliarum conceſſionum, preſtacionum, et contribucionum predict', cum aliis villis, burgis, villatis, hundredis, hamelettis, et locis de corpore dicti com' Leyc', pro porcione ſua inde quocienſcumque evenerit contribuend' nullatenus oneretur aut onerentur, ſet pro eadem porcione ſua ville ſive burgi illius ad ſummam ſupradictam, et pro parte rate ſue ejuſdem, ultra deduccionem predictam, per moderatores, taxatores, et aſſeſſores predictos ville ſive burgi illius per nos, heredes et ſucceſſores noſtros, reges Anglie pro tempore exiſten', ut premittiur, tantummodo aſſignand', onerentur et taxentur; ita quod per aliquos commiſſionarios, aſſeſſores, ſive taxatores de dicto com' Leyc', ſeu aliquos alios generales commiſſionarios noſtros infra regnum noſtrum Anglie exiſtent', ordinari aut nominari contingent', pro corpore dicti com' Leyc' ſeu alibi deputand' ſive aſſignand', extra vilam ſive burgum ill', aliquomodo non taxentur, aſſidentur, aut ſolvere vel aliquo modo onerari conantur vel diſtringantur ſeu occ'onentur; quodque dicti major et ceteri contaxatores, moderatores, aſſeſſores, et ordinatores infra villam ſive burgum ill' et ſuburb', inde pro tempore de cetero exiſten', per nos, heredes et ſucceſſores noſtros, ut premittiur, aſſignati et aſſignand', per ſe, diviſi ab allis commiſſionariis de corpore dicti com' Leyc', tant' et tales ſufficientes collectores quintarum, decimarum, quotarum, taxarum, auxiliorum, ſubſidiorum, et cujuſcumque ulterius oneris et contribucionis, et parcell' eorumdem, infra villam ſive burgum predict, et ſuburb' ejuſdem, nobis, heredibus aut ſucceſſoribus noſtris, pertinen' et pertinere contingen', quando et quociens caſus hujuſmodi conceſſionum inde colligendi et levandi evenerit ſeu contigerit,

The margin of the Rev Mr Topp's book (from whence the names of the Mayors are taken, excepting ſome few at the beginning) ſays, againſt this Mayor's name, "*All afore written and examined by very old records*". The reaſons which may be aſſign'd for the liſts of Mayors of Leiceſter, which are in the poſſeſſion of many people, not perfectly agreeing at the beginning, are firſt, ſome of them may have been kept from the date of the year they have been choſen, and others from the date of the year enſuing. But the more probable reaſon

gerit, pro quibus reſpondere voluerint, nominare, deputare, aſſignare, ordinare, aut onerare, valeant et debeant, ac de eorum nominibus, quotiens ſic fieri contigerit, de tempore in tempus, nobis, heredibus et ſucceſſoribus noſtris, in ſcaccarium noſtrum aut alibi, prout per conceſſione hujuſmodi fieri contingent, per ſeipſos ſolos et diviſos ab aliis commiſſionariis corporis dicti com' Leyc' ſub eorum ſigilis debite certificent; et quod ſinguli predicti collectores dicte ville ſive burgi, ſic de tempore in tempus, quociens et quando nominati, deputati, ordinati, aut onerati fuerint in forma predicta, in hujuſmodi caſu de cetero non onerentur cum collectoribus corporis dicti com' Leyc' in aliquo modo, nec de pluribus aliis ſive majoribus ſummis in compotis ſuis cum dictis collectoribus de corpore dicti com' Leyc' reſpondeant, ſet quod ipſi collectores infra dictam villam ſive burgum de cetero, in forma predicta, ut premittiur, deputand' et nominand', de tantis et talibus ſummis, unde dict' villa ſive burgus, ac ſinguli burgenſes, commorantes, inhabitantes, ac reſidentes ibidem, et ſuburb' inde pro ſe a dicto corpore predicti com' Leyc' divis' pro rata et onere ejuſdem burgi, prout caſus eveniet, onerari aut aſſidi per dictos aſſeſſores infra villam ſive burgum predict', per ſe, ut premittiur, aſſidend' onerabunter, et a quibuſcumque collectionebus, contributionibus, et ſolutionibus ſuis, cum collectoribus de et pro corpore dicti com' Leyc', et aliis collectoribus quibuſcumque extra villam ſive burgum predict' deputand', ſint exnunc imperpetuum penitus ſeperati, diviſi, et onerati, licet ipſi burgenſes ſive inhabitantes infra dict' villam ſive burgum et ſuburb', inde per commiſſionarios de corpore dict' com Leyc' exnunc quovis modo cum collectoribus ejuſdem com' deputentur aut deputari contigerint. Concedimus eciam majori, burgenſ', et ſucceſſoribus ſuis predictis, quod nullus burgenſis reſidens ville ſive burgi qui nunc eſt, et exnunc fore contigerit, de cetero non fiat nec ſit aut oneretur fore collector aliquorum premiſſorum in aliquo loco ſive aliquibus locis infra dictum com' Leyc', ſeu alibi extra villam ſive burgum predict' aut ſuburb' inde exiſten', per aliquos commiſſionarios de dicto corporatione predicti com' Leyc', ſeu aliquos alios extra villam ſive burgum ill' deputand', aſſignand', aut nominand', ratione aliquorum bonorum, catallorum, terrarum, aut tenem' ſuorum in dicto com' Leyc', ſeu alibi extra villam ſive burgum predict' et ſuburb', inde exiſten' aut exiſtere contingen'; ſet quod ipſi burgenſes et eorum ſinguli, ac eorum heredes et ſucceſſores, et eorum quilibet burgenſ' ville ſive burgi predict' exnunc imperpetuum, tenore et auctoritate preſencium, de cetero et de tempore in tempns de ſingulis hujuſmodi collectoribus ſuis, ac omnibus et ſolucionibus ratione dict' collectionum contingen' in dicto com' Leyc', ſeu alibi extra villam ſive burgum predict', in hac parte penitus erga nos et heredes noſtros exonerati et quieti exiſtant, et eorum quilibet exiſtat. Eo quod expreſſa mencio de vero valore annuo premiſſorum, aut de aliis donis ſive conceſſionibus per nos, progenitores ſive predeceſſores noſtros, eiſdem majori et burgenſibus ante hec tempora factis in preſentibus, facta non exiſtit, aut aliquo ſtatuto, actu, ordinacione, ſive reſtrictione, in contrarium premiſſorum, fact', ordinat', edit', ſive proviſ', aut aliqua alia, re, cauſa, ſeu materia quacumque in aliquo non obſtante. In cujus, &c. T. R. apud Weſtm' quarto die Marcii.

Per ipſum regem, et de dat' &c. pro treſdecim ſolidis et quatuor denariis ſolut' in hanaperio.

reaſon for the difference may be accounted for another way. At the commencement of this body Corporate, that regularity and order of conducting buſineſs could not be expected as at preſent: it was unlikely that they ſhould keep a complete record of their tranſactions when learning was confined to a few individuals, and when neceſſity had not urged the meaſure. Hence originated the office of *Town Scribe* or *Town Clerk.*

It may be noticed alſo that the office of Mayor was an eaſy tranſition from that of Bailiffs or Bailiff; it paſſed thro' only one appellation, that of elderman or alderman; who preſided over the affairs of this Town only about fifteen years; that is from 1233 to 1248. They all three were nearly one and the ſame office till ſubſequent charters, or grants from the Crown, had made the office of Mayor riſe to its preſent dignity, power and conſequence. It may be juſt neceſſary to obſerve by way of ſhewing the gradual riſe of the government of corporate towns, that the office of Lord Mayor of London, before the conqueſt by the Normans, was called *Portreve*, or *Portgreve;* which, in the ſaxon language, ſignifies a governor, or ruler of a Port, City, or Foreſt, and it continued ſo till the reign of Richard the firſt, who inſtead of a *Portreve* appointed them two Bailiffs. King John changed the office ſoon after to that of Mayor. Thus we ſee that the officer of large towns, in whom was repoſed a truſt not diſſimilar to Mayors, has been long appointed. As to local grants and charters they were given in a great extent ſo far back a in Edward the confeſſor's time, who uſed a great broad ſeal for that purpoſe.

1509, *Richard Heire*, was Mayor the firſt of

HENRY VIII. (*a*)

1510, then *William Wigſton* till
1512, *Richard Gillott.*
1513, *Richard Reynold.*
1514, *Thomas Burton.*

1515,

(*a*) This king obtained the title of defender of the faith by writing a book againſt *Luther.*

1515, *Thomas Cotten.*
1516, *John Reyde.*
1517, *Thomas Smith.*
1518, *Richard Weſton.*
1519. *William Bartlett.*

The following is without a date, written illegibly.

By the kinge henry VIII.

" Truſty and welbeloued, we grete you well, and for aſmoche as we for divers conſideracions, us moeving, intende to have alman perſonnes, reſident within, and or here afterw'ds to be reſident inhabitants and abiding w't'in that aur Towne off leceſter, and the liberties ther off, hable to do unto us ſervis of warrs, when the caſe ſhall require, to be at the leading and conducting of aur right truſty and welbeloued counſeller, the lorde Haſtyngs, ſteward of aur ſaid towne. We therfer woll and command you and any of you that ye in no wiſe ſuffer any of the ſaid perſonnes to bee taken by any man perſon, or perſnes what ſo ere they bee; or reteigned to any of them, but that they bee allwayes in aredynes and forth comying to give attendannces upon aur ſaid counſeller to do unto us ſervis of warr, when we ſhall geve unto yme commandement in that behalf, any aur placart or other aur — of commiſſions or comandement maide or to be maide to the contrary thereoff not w't' ſtanding, and that ye faile not thus to do, as ye entend to pleaſe us, and woll—— the contrary. Given under ye ſignet of aur houſe of Eſthampſted The xvii day of July." *(Corporation Records.)*

1520, *William Wigſton.*
1521, *Robert Heſwer.*
1522, *William Balt.*
1523, *Richard Reynold.*
1524, *Richard Staples.*
1525, *Edward Beeze.*
1526, *John Weſtes.*
1527, *Thomas Burton.*
1528, *Robert Gilliot.*
1529, *Thomas Bett.*

1530,

1530, *William Tebb.* Cardinal Wolſey died at Leiceſter Abby(*a*).

1531, *Nicholas Reynolds.*

1532, *John Burton.* This year the company of Shoe-makers, of Leiceſter, purchaſed the prayers of the religious of the Houſe of the Auguſtine Friars, on condition of their paying them ten ſhillings per annum, excluſive of their uſual offerings and duties.

1533, *Chriſtopher Clowſey.*

1534, *William Bolt.*

1535, *Thomas Burton.*

1536, *Roger Gilliot.*

1537, *Randolph Wood.*

1538, *William Pratt.*

1539, *Richard Reynold.* Leiceſter Abby

1540, *Robert Gadſbey.* [ſuppreſſed(*b*).

1541, *Hugh Aſton.*

1542, *Thomas Creſſye.*

1543, *Chriſtopher Clowſey.*

1544, *William Oylif.*

1545, *Robert Cotten.*

"One William ffoxby having fallen aſleep, could not be awaked by pinching and burning, till after 14 days; and when awaked was found, in all points, as if he had ſleep butt one night." (*c*)

1546, *Robert Maye.*

2547, *Randolph Wood.* The firſt of

EDWARD VI.

1548, *John Gettys.*

1549, *Nicholas Reynolds.*

1550, *Robert Newcombe.*

At a common hall it was agreed by the Mayor, Aldermen and Common Council-men "That every man having any Cattel goyng

(*a*) See Section the third. (*b*) Ibid. (*c*) In the margin of a book containing a liſt of the Mayors of Leiceſter.

or Paſturyng within the Cowhey ſhal fynde yerly when nede ſhal requyre a Man to worke a days worke about the ſame for the fencyng and ſafe kepeyng of the ſame Paſture." It appears alſo by this agreement, that thoſe who refuſed were to pay 6d for every beaſt, and the Chamberlains of the Town, for the time being, were empowered to hire men and ſet them at work in reparing and ditching the ſaid Cowhey. (*a*)

1551, *Thomas Willcox.*
1552, *Nicholas Heyrick.*

A very memorable tranſaction took place about this time which deſerves particular notice: namely, the gifts, or Charity of Sir Thomas White, whoſe philanthrophy extended far and near. That portion of his benevolence which I am about to ſpeak of is but a part of his great goodneſs to his fellow creatures.

The following is a conciſe account of the charity of Sir T. White, Knt. reſpecting this place, which I publiſhed in the Leiceſterſhire Memoirs in 1777.

In the year 1700, four Corporations, which were included in this gift, preferred a bill in Chancery againſt the City of Coventry, reſpecting the improved eſtates of that gentleman's donation; and as numbers in Leiceſter have experienced the happy effects of his bounty, I have judged it neceſſary to give my readers ſome account of its riſe and progreſs, not doubting but it will be acceptable.

Sir Thomas White was a citizen of London, and belonged to the company of Merchant Taylors; and in the year 1546, did, from a noble intention, pay into the hands of the Mayor and commonality of the City of Coventry, fourteen hundred pounds, to purchaſe lands, the rents of which were to be paid to Sir Thomas during the

(*a*) Corporation Records.

Another order of Hall in the 7th year of Edward the VIth. Signed by 47 members of the Corporation ſays, that no perſon in Leiceſter or its ſuburbs ſhall put into the Cowhew more than "tow kye a pece & for lack of tow kye to put in a Cow and a Heyford or tow Calves, called heyford Calves" and they to be his own; and neither *Ox-Calf*, *Ox* nor *Stere* was to be put into the ſaid Paſture. A freman might hire, if he had none of his own, a milch Cow; but he was reſtricted from borrowing a Cow under colour, upon pain of forfeiting 2s 6d for the firſt offence; the ſecond 5s, and the third the loſs of his freedom.

the remainder of his life, and then to be applied as under. The purchaſe brought him in annually 70l. and he dying in the year 1556, his Will directed that there ſhould be given out of it, firſt to twelve poor men of the city of Coventry forty ſhillings, per year, each, free gift; next he willed forty pounds of the reſidue to four young men of the ſame place, tradeſmen. 10l. each, for nine years, without intereſt, provided they were free of the ſame city, and gave ſecurity.—When the nine years were expired, his will directed that the ſaid truſt were to pay yearly twenty pounds each, to two young men, free of Coventry, to be continued for 30 years, each holding the money for nine years as before, without intereſt. And at the expiration of that time they were to pay one other freeman of Coventry forty pounds for nine years, without intereſt, and ſo on as before, for ever. In the ſecond year, after the expiration of the thirty years, it was alſo ordered that they were to pay to the Town of Northampton, forty pounds, the Corporation of which was directed to lend the ſame to four young freemen, inhabitants of that place, ten pounds each, for nine years, as in the firſt inſtance, and ſo on to other four young men for ever. In the third year, after the expiration of the thirty years, they were alſo ordered to pay forty pounds to the Town of Leiceſter, to be diſpoſed of in the ſame manner as that at Northampton. In the fourth year the ſame ſum and in the like manner to Nottingham. And in the fifth to Warwick. And the ſixth to Coventry, where the whole forty pounds were then to be paid to one freeman of the City, for nine years, and ſo on for ever. It was willed that no perſon was to have it twice; and to be paid in, one month after the deceaſe of the principal. The perſon to whom the money is lent, ſhould be choſen without partiality.

The eſtate being vaſtly improved in the year 1700, the Corporations preferred a bill in Chancery for an equitable diſtribution of the improved rents, which upon hearing was given againſt the Corporations; but they, not being ſatisfied with this deciſion, brought their claim before the houſe of Lords, the enſuing year; when it was ſettled to their advantage. It happened, upon examining the eſtate and ſettling the accouns in the year 1709, that the eſtate was

improved

improved to the value of ſeven hundred and nine pounds, two ſhillings and two-pence. It was therefore ordered that for the firſt year, A. D. 1709, beginning at the 25th of March, the whole of the 709l. 2s. 2d. ſhould go to the City of Coventry, to be diſpoſed of to the purpoſe following, viz. to one hundred and twenty-one poor men, forty ſhillings each, and to one other poor man twenty-three ſhillings, in all 243l. 3s. to be given according to the deed of free-gift of the donor.—And 42l. 4s. 2d. to be put out in free loan according alſo to the donors intention, and the reſt was given to the Merchant Taylors Company, a certain portion to the Mayor, Recorder, and Aldermen of Coventry; and a diviſion alſo of it to the Steward and town Clerk of that City; the whole amounting to the ſum of 709l. 2s. 2d. This ſum the ſucceeding year, beginning the 25th of March, was to be divided as follows; To the City of Coventry, 243l. 3s. to be given to poor men as before. To the Merchant Taylors, &c. 60l. 15s. To Northampton, 405l. 4s. 2d. the next year the like ſum to Leiceſter, ſo on each ſucceeding year to Nottingham & Warwick.

The ſum now in the gift of the Mayor and Aldermen of Leiceſter, or rather out at uſe, under their truſt, amounts to upwards of 11000 pounds, and is lent to tradeſmen, freemen of Leiceſter, in ſums of fifty and forty pounds; no perſon being allowed to have more than one fifty and forty during his life, and theſe ſums never at one time; no petition of that nature being complied with till after the payment of the firſt loan. The Corporation of Leiceſter have been very careful that poſterity ſhould not ſuffer from their negligence or indulgence in lending this money upon hazardous ſecurity; and I believe very few inſtances have happened detrimental to the intereſt of ſucceeding generations.

Some years ago, when the Corporation of Leiceſter built their new Exchange, they intended to have perpetuated the memory of this great Benefactor, by placing his ſtatue in a niche they left for that purpoſe, in the front of the ſame building; but whether the ſame expreſſive ſentiments of gratitude have not ſince prevailed, or ſome other more preventive cauſe has hindered its completion I cannot

cannot determine. That the predeceſſors of this Body of Gentlemen poſſeſt the warmeſt ſenſe of the bleſſings, through his means, which have been given to the hand of induſtry here, the following lines will in ſome meaſure teſtify.—They are written under his Arms, which are placed in the Town-Hall parlour, in Leiceſter, where are holden the Corporation courts of Aldermen and Common-council.

Lo! here a ſhip, a merchant royal fraught,
With ſtore of wealth from whoſe rich ſides unſought,
Plenty of metal hath been largely given,
White's name, White's gifts, White's ſoul, White's ſaint in heaven;
Whoſe Arms we (leaſt we ſhew ourſelves ingrate)
Properly blazon'd here do celebrate:
The which eternal monument ſhall be
Of White's renown, to all poſterity.
Die then, and rot, and ſtink, you hulks of ſhame,
Who charg'd with wealth, have nothing but a name
Of dying rich, whoſe tombs ſhall never ſpeak
Your praiſe, one White ſhall all your credit break.

1553, *Thomas Davenport.* The firſt of

MARY I.

1554, *John Berridge.*
1555, *Robert Jones.*
1556, *William Maubye.* Thomas More, a huſband-man aged 24, was condemned to death by the ordinary, in St. Margaret's Church for ſaying, that his Maker was in Heaven and not in the Pix, and was burnt in Leiceſter a few days afterwards.(*a*)
1557, *John Heyrick.*
1558, *Robert Fletcher.* The firſt of

(*a*) Fox's book of martyrs.

ELIZABETH.

"This year corn was ſo dear yt people made bread of acorns which were ſold for 8d a ſtrike." Wheat was 9s a Buſhel,(a) Acorns at 8d a ſtrike then, according to the preſent value of money, would be worth as many ſhillings.

1559, *Thomas Stanford.*
1560, *Richard Darker.*
1561, *Thomas Hallam.*
1562, *William Reynolds.*

"The Tempeſt in Leiceſter 1562."(b) "Ann 1562-3 on the 16th of January, a great tempeſt of wind and thunder happened in the towne of Leiceſter, which uncovered 411 baies of Houſes and overturned many."(c)

1563, *Richard Davy.*
1564, *Simon Nixe.*
1565, *Thomas Fowler.*
1566, *John Tatam.*
1567, *William Norris.*
1568, *William Mawbye.*
1569, *James Clark.*

The following article in the churchwardens accounts for the pariſh of St Martin, in the year 1569, proves that a croſs ſtood formerly where that did which was lately taken down. "Payd to bodely for Caryinge y'e ſtones & Ramell away from where the Croſſe ſtoode —— VIIId." The *late* Croſs was built in 1577, and taken down in 1773. It was a light handſome building and is repreſented in the Plate, Page 62. Its fragments are now ſcattered in various parts of Leiceſter, ſerving for a variety of purpoſes. By far the greateſt portion of it, in one place, ſupports the dining-room, at the three Crowns Inn.

1570, *Nicholas Engliſh.*
1571, *William Gillot.*

1572,

(a) In the margin of the liſt of Mayors. (b) ibid. (c) Stowe.

1572, *John Heyrick.*
1573, *Thomas Stanford.*
The Free School founded.(*a*)
1574, *John Tatam.*
1575, *John Middleton.*
1576, *William Norris.*
1577, *George Tatam.*
1578, *Phillip Ffreake.*
1579, *William Morton.* By order of the Queen, ten ſoldiers were trained in Leiceſter, on account of the ſaid town. The expence 40s. 5d.
1580, *George Tatam.*
1581, *Phillip Ffreake.*
1582, *William Morton.*

" At a Comon Hall Feb. 25 Eliz. William Morton Mayor."

" Item y't y's agreed that he, that ſhal hereafter bee choſen to be Mayor (being a victualler) that then there ſhal bee Twoe of the Company that bee no victuallers Choſen according to the ſtatute in that caſe made and provided, (3 Henry 8) and to be ſworn with the Mayor to Aſſize the price of victual. And that the ſaid Mayor ſhal not, without the conſent of the ſ'd two perſons, alter anye aſſiſſe of victual or alter any meaſure."

In the Corporation Book, where I copied this from, follows ſeveral inſtances noticed of 2 members of the body corporate being appointed and ſworn in to act, in that caſe, during the Mayoralty of a victuallar. The firſt ſhews which of the Clarks it was who lived at the Blue Boar Inn, when the diſcovery of Richard the third's money was made, and whoſe wife was murdered (See Page 61).

" St Matthew 25th of Eliz. *Tho's Clarke Mayor Elect.* John Heyrick & William Morton appointed according to the ſtatute for aſſizing of Victuals."

" St Matthew 29th of Eliz. *William Ludlam Mayor Elect.* Mr John Tatam and Mr James Clark choſen according to the ſtatute for that he is a Butcher & an In-keeper."

When

(*a*) Marginal note in the liſt of Mayors. See the preſent State.

When Ralfe Chettle was Mayor Elect being a Baker and a Common Brewer, two were choſen to act for him.

When Thomas Nixe was choſen, being a Fiſh-monger, two were appointed with him.

And there are alſo two more inſtances in Elizabeth's reign.

A letter from the Right Honourable George Earl of Huntingdon.

„ To my Loveing ffriend Mr. Mayor of Leiceſter.

Mr. Mayor foraſmuch as I have received Letters from the Lords of her Majeſty's moſt Honourable Privy Conſell for the preſent ſupplying and putting in aredineſs her Majeſty's fforces heretofore Leuied within this her Majeſty's County of Leiceſter, And Whereas in the former orders and Proportions taken in my late Honourable brothers time for the 500 trained Soldiers in this County levied, the Town of Leiceſter was then charged with the furniſhing of fforty Men viz. Twelve Calivers, four Muſkets, Eleven Bows and Arrows, Eight Carſlets and Pikes and five bills. Now their Lordſhips pleaſures are, that all the Bows and Arrows and Bills generally muſt be refuſed, and Supplyed onely with Muſkets, So that then your Proportion is Twelve Calivers, Twenty Muſkets, and Eight Carſlets with Pikes, All which I require you and in her Majeſty's Name charge and command you forthwith to have in good readineſs, And withall to ſelect and make Choiſe of the forty Men to be very ſufficient and able Men and like to be Reſi'ant and no Starters or Shifling perſons and preſently to ſee them Armed accordingly that I may have them ready at an hours warning to take the view of them myſelf, And ſo to deliver them over to ſuch as I ſhall appoint for the Aray'neing and ordering of them, And hereof I pray you not to fail. Given at my Manor of Aſhby-de-la-Zouch this 29th. day of Aprill 1598.

Your Loveing Ffriend

GEORGE HUNTINGDON."

1583, *Thomas Clark.*

1534, *Robert Heyrick.*

Charter

Charter by Queen Eliz: about this time.

Whereas our Borough of Leiceſter, in our County of Leiceſter, is a Borough very ancient and populous; and from ancient times hath been a Borough incorporate; and the inhabitants thereof, and their predeceſſors, have hitherto had and held divers Liberties, Franchiſes Priviliges and Immunities, as well on account of different preſcriptions & cuſtoms uſed in the ſaid Borough from time immemorial, as from donations and grants made by different of our progenitors, once Kings of England.——(Which grants indeed were not made to the inhabitants by the *one uniform name of a Corporation*, but under various and different names, as fully appears from various charters and letters patent of our different progenitors, there afore time made & granted). And whereas our beloved ſubjects, the Mayor and Burgeſſes of our Borough of Leiceſter, have moſt humbly beſought us; (in as much as we are willing in this behalf graciouſly to extend to the ſaid Mayor and Burgeſſes our royal Favour and Munificence) and becauſe we, for the better government and improvement of the ſaid Borough, have vouchſafed by our letters patent, to ratify, confirm, make, conſtitute, or create anew, the ſaid Mayor and Burgeſſes of the ſame borough into *another body Corporate and Politic*, by the name of Mayor, Bailiffs and Burgeſſes of the Borough of Leiceſter, with the addition and augmentation of certain liberties for the public good as ſhall ſeem to be expedient: We therefore graciouſly tendering the improvement of the ſaid Borough, and willing that for the future, ſome *certain* and *undoubted* rule may be obſerved for maintaining the peace and good government of the people therein; and willing that the ſaid Borough may for ever remain peaceful and quiet, to the terror of evil doers and the praiſe of them that do well; and that our peace and other acts of juſtice may be obſerved there, without further hindrance; and expecting, that if the Burgeſſes of the ſame Borough and their ſucceſſors can boaſt of greater Honours, Liberties and Privileges from our ampler grant, that then they will feel themſelves more eſpecially and

ſtronger bound to execute all ſervices and duties which ſhall be incumbent on them to us our heirs and ſucceſſors.

I judged it neceſſary to give the above preamble of the following charter in a literal tranſlation, which ſhews, as I obſerved in page 85, that bodies corporate have been matured by time. The charter itſelf is long, the ſubſtance, or moſt eſſential part of which, is as follows.

Of our ſpecial grace and favour we will, ordain and grant, that the Borough of Leiceſter, for the time to come, is and ſhall be a free Borough in it ſelf; and that the Burgeſſes and their Succeſſors, for ever, are and ſhall be by virtue of theſe preſents one body corporate and political *in re facto et nomine*, and a perpetual community of one Mayor two Bailiffs and Burgeſſes of the Borough of Leiceſter, &c. and by the ſame name they have a conſtant ſucceſſion. And that theſe, under the name of Mayor &c. may and ſhall be for ever perſons able and competent in law, to hold, receive, and poſſeſs lands, tenements, liberties, and priviliges of whatever kind and degree, by them and their ſucceſſors in fee and perpetuity. After enumerating other powers, it gives them a common Seal, which Seal, at their pleaſure, they may deſtroy, change or alter. After confirming the ſubſtance of the foregoing Charters by former Princes, reſpecting the choice of Mayor Aldermen and Common Council, it further wills that the Mayor Aldermen &c. ſhall have full power of granting and making, from time to time, ſuch laws and regulations as ſhall ſeem to them uſeful and ſalutary, for the good government of the inhabitants of the ſaid Borough: And for the better executing theſe our grants (it ſays) we aſſign nominate and make our beloved Thomas Clark, (*a*) lately Mayor of the ſaid Borough, to be the firſt and modern Mayor of this Borough, willing that the ſaid Thomas Clark ſhall continue in the office of Mayor, from the granting of theſe Preſents, till the feaſt of St Matthew next following. And upon the ſaid feaſt ſome other Alderman ſhall be choſen into his office. We alſo

(*a*) Whoſe widow was murdered at the Blue Boar Inn.

alſo nominate and make Thomas Chettle, lately Alderman, and Jacob Andrew, (*a*) lately one of the 48, to be the two firſt modern Bailiffs, to remain in the ſaid office till the feaſt of St Matthew. Here follows a liſt of the names of all the then Aldermen and Common Council. Theſe and their ſucceſſors are all by this renewing charter to continue in office during life; unleſs in the mean time they ſhall be removed from their office, *pro mala gubernacione ſeu male ſe gerend' in ea parte aut aliqua alia cauſa rationabili* (for male goverment). It further empowers the greateſt part of the body Corporate to aſſemble and chooſe their new Mayor and other officers on St Matthew's day in the Gild, or any other convenient place within the Borough. In caſe the Mayor dies in his office or be removed from it for male practices; it alſo empowers the body Corporate to chooſe another within fourteen days. If an Alderman or Common Council die, or is removed, the vacancy is to be filled up by the Mayor and Aldermen. Likewiſe (it ſays) we will and appoint Richard Parkins to be the firſt, or Modern Recorder of the ſame Borough. And we will, likewiſe, that the Mayor Bailiff, and Burgeſſes chooſe a (Seneſcallum) Steward, and we appoint Thomas Ward Gent. to be in office ſo long, as he ſhall conduct himſelf well. And we will that the Mayor &c. ſhall have a diſcrete perſon, who ſhall be called *(communis clericus et prothonotarius)* Town Clerk, and we appoint William Derrick, Gent. to that office. And we will alſo that the Mayor &c. ſhall have in the Borough five officers, who ſhall be called (Servientes ad clavam) Serjeants at mace, for the executing of all arreſts proclamations &c. and to carry before the Mayor gilt or ſilver maces ornamented with the arms of England. And we further will that the Mayor &c. they and their ſucceſſors, hold a court of record for the Borough at their Gild, on monday in every week, or oftener at their pleaſure, to take cognizance of all cauſes that fall under their juriſdiction. We moreover grant, that the Mayor Recorder,

(*a*) He has a curious inſcription to his memory, in St Martin's Chancel Leiceſter.

Recorder, and four Aldermen, who were the laſt Mayors, reſpectively, to be juſtices of the peace.

It appears by this Charter alſo, that the Mayor &c. ſhall not proceed to the trial of any murder or felony, or any other matter touching the loſs of life or member within the ſaid Borough; without, (it ſays,) our ſpecial mandate. It appears alſo that no perſon, not a freeman, could open a ſhop in Leiceſter for the ſale of merchandize, but thoſe that procured a ſpecial licence from the Mayor Bailiffs and Burgeſſes. It gives power alſo, as heretofore, to the Mayor &c. to exerciſe their juriſdiction over the Biſhop's Fee, St Leonard's the Newarck, and St Mary's, pariſhes(*a*). It appears alſo by this grant that much damage had been done in the Town by malt kilns being erected within it: It therefore orders that no granary of that ſort ſhould be erected hereafter to be uſed, but what was thirty yards from any building, under the penalty of 6s 8d for every time it was uſed. For the better relief of the poor of the ſaid place, it grants a market for wool yarn and worſted, and other commodities on certain days heretofore uſed and appointed; And all fines amercements, tolls, &c. were to be uſed to the ſervice and maintenance of the poor within the Borough aforeſaid. It concludes with reinſtating them in all their lands, hereditaments grants, Charters &c.

1585, *James Clark.*
1586, *James Ellis.*

The Corporation at this time ſold ſome conſiderable eſtates to purchaſe the Graunge. Of theſe tranſactions I have abſtracts from the Corporation Books from which I have drawn the following information;

In a note of Remembrance or Rental of money "Rec'd for the yearly rent or Moytye or one half part of the Graunge near the town of Leiceſter which Francis Haſtings Eſq: holdith by leaſe of our Sovereign Lady the Queens Majeſtye for certeyne years yet enduringe,

(*a*) On the wording of this part of the charter, the Judges have lately given an opinion that they have only a concurrent power with the county juſtices.

enduringe, and by him lately ſold to the Corporation of the Town of Leyceſter for 600L." is ſpecified that in 1585,

	£.	s.	d.
" The ſeveral Tenants owed	57	6	0
Due at Lady-day 1586 and rec'd	47	6	8
Rec'd for a meadow lett for four years £10 per Ann.	40	0	0"

" Money Receyed being *lent* by the 24 and 48 towards the payment of the £600 due to Mr. Fran. Haſtings. Item Receyved of certayne of the 24 the ſome of LXXX*lb.* Item Receyved of certayne of the 48 the ſome of XXXV*lb.*——£115 0 0"

In another note of remembrance, " Is payde to Mr Haſtings for all his right and eſtate, term of years in the ſayde moyte of half part of the Graunge, the ſome of £600." The land &c.(*a*) ſold, mentioned in the note below amounted to £435 6*s* 8*d*, which

Cc added

(*a*) Fyrſt ſold to George Burbage of Ratcliff Huſbandman all the Lands Meadows Paſtures Woods Underwoods & Hereditaments whatſoever there, & elſewhere in his Occup'n by Indenture of the Rent of 15l 8d for £200 0 0.

It'm Sold to Robert Heyne of Thruſſington huſbandman One Meſſ. or Ten't in Thruſſington w'th all Lands &c. to the ſame belonging now in the Occup'n of one Storer by Indent'r of the Rent of 12l for £107 0 0.

It'm Sold to Richard Orton of Leic'r Cowoyſor one Tenem't with the Appurts at the High Croſs called the New Houſe in the Occup'n of John Wynterſcale by Indenture of the yearly Rent of 14s for £20 0 0.

It'm Sold to Myſtris Davye of Leic'r Widow a little Cloſe or Croft in the pariſh of St. Margeret in her Occup'n of the Rent of 12d for £3 6*s* 8*d*.

It'm Sold to Will'm Dakyn of Leic'r Butcher one piece of Ground lying on the Backſide of his Houſe late Mr Darkers of the Rent of 5s for £10 0 0.

It'm Sold to the aforeſaid Richard Orton One Cloſe or Croft in the Occup'n of Rob't Johnſon Maſon by Indenture, and is lying in the late Pariſh of St. Peters of the yearly Rent of 10s £24 0 0.

It'm Sold to Will'm More of Leic'r Butcher one Meſſ. or Ten't w'th the Appurts in Applegate in the Pariſh of St. Nicholas, now in the Occup'n of Will'm Spencer by Indenture of the Rent of 20s for £24 0 0.

It'm Sold to Robert Robards of Leic'r Tann'r One Meſſ. or Ten'te w'th th' Appurts Seytuate in the North Gate between the Briggs in the Occup'n of George Downes Waycor by Indenture for certen Years yet to come of the yearly Rent of 14s for the ſome of £31 0 0.

It'm Sold to John Harryce of Humb'ſton Gate One Tenemente w'th the Appurts in Belgrave Gate lately in the Occup'n of one Peter Kynder and now of one James Cooper of the Rent of 6s 8d for £16 0 0.

added to the £115 lent by the members of the Corporation, makes a ſum within fifty pounds of the purchaſe money.

Another note of Remembrance particularizes the expences of Counſel charges in London. The loan of money &c. with the £600 paid to Mr Haſtings which amounts in the whole for the moity of the Graunge to £627 3s 8d.(a)

It may be neceſſary to continue here what reſpects the Town of Leiceſter, and the South Fields, from abſtracts I have ſeen.

Villa Leiceſt'r Circa Ann. 1592.

" Firſt the Queens Majeſtys Gift of Lands and Tenem'ts in Fee Farm to the Mayor and Burgeſſes of the Town of Leiceſt'r (the greateſt part whereof being Candle Rent) is of the yearly Rent of £137 13s 7d 3-4.

Alſo her Majeſty hath freely given unto the ſaid Mayor and Burgeſſes a Leaſe in Reverſion of the Graunge for one and thirty Years, the rent thereof yearly reſerved is £32 os 6d.

Part of which ffee farm is imployed as followeth, viz.

Firſt Whereas we did pay unto Stephen Harvye for his Moytye of the Leaſe of St. John's & Leonard or near Leic'r in ready money the ſum of £170 We did afterwards Aſſure unto Geo. Tatam his parten' in the ſaid Leaſe for the other Moytye thereof (in lieve of the like ſum of 170l) Lands and Tenem'ts in fee farm hereafter particularly mentioned of the yearly rent of £1 16s 6d.

Alſo there is Aſſured unto Richard Archer in fee farm, in conſideration of a Leaſe, and of his Travel about the Towns ſuite, and entering divers things into our Book of fee farm Lands and Tenem'ts hereafter Particularly mentioned of the yearly rent of £4 14s 4d.

Alſo the ſaid Archer hath in his hands of the Townes 1C. w'ch they pay Intereſt for.

Alſo there is aſſured unto George Tatam & Thomas Clarke for them to Sell in Fee Farm in Conſideration of paying £600 of the Towns

(a) I ſaw in a little article of expences about this buſineſs " P'd for a Quart of wine given to the Adi-ſo's 0. 0 6d".

Towns Debt, Lands & Tenem'ts (hereafter particularly mentioned) of the yearly rent of £20 2s 8d.

Alſo there is Sold out to divers perſons, Lands & Ten'ts in fee farm, hereafter particularly mentioned for the ſum of £303 13s 4d being of the yearly rent of £22 3s 8d.

The Total ſum of the yearly Rents before mentioned is £48 17s 2d.

The Total ſum received for the Lands & Tenem'ts before-mentioned Sold in fee farm is £903 13s 4d.

16 April 31ſt of Eliz. 1589. The Corporation purchaſed of Wightman 2 Yard Land.

22 Nov'r 36 Eliz. 1594. They purchaſed Archers 2d. Yard Land.

7th Feb. 1613. They purchaſed of Sr. Wm. Smythe and Humphrey Smythe in Conſ'n of £1000—All that Grange near the Borough of Leiceſter with the Appur'ts. Alſo all that Cloſe called Goſling Crofte or Goſling Cloſe with the Appurt's in the Borough & Fields of Leic'r togather with the Tack (animal & Porcorum) of Beaſt and Swine depaſtured in Cowhey and Southfields Leic'r. And all other Comodities to the ſaid Grange belonging, alſo the Newark Mills, Gooſe Holme & fiſhery &c. alſo a Tenement in the South Gate the Land Swann & Bead-houſe Meadow &c. Parcel of the late Colledge of the Newark, And alſo all and Singular &c. as fully freely and wholly and in as large ample Manner and Forme as the ſame Premiſes were given and granted to Francis Morris and Francis Phillips and by them ſold to the ſaid Sr. W'm Smythe and Humphrey Smythe. 16 y'd Land.

6th Sept'r 1622. The Corp'n purchaſed of Mr. Wadland half a Yard Land which with the above mentioned makes the 20 Yard Land and a half in the South Fields belonging to the Corporation."

It ſeems that to accompliſh theſe great purchaſes a Committee of the Corporation was formed to ſell in Fee Farm a vaſt property in the Town of Leiceſter only. From which I ſhall notice ſuch things only which ſeem to me worthy of preſervation.

George

George Tatam who appears to have been a leading Alderman in the Corporation about this time, had the value of £36 17s per annum In lue and full payment of £170 for his moitye of the leaſe of the lands &c. ſome time belonging to the late Hoſpital of St. John and St. Leonrd in or near Leiceſter.

Richard Archer who was an active Burgeſs at this time had, in fee farm, granted unto him Lands &c. worth £4 13s 4d per Ann. Among which was a Cloſe near *St. James Chapel* rent per ann. 4s. A Cloſe near the *Cow drift* 10s. And a place called the *Armitage* (Hermitage).

Among other lands ſold at one time in fee farm (19 parcels) for £303 13s 4d, were the Houſes and Appurtenances called St. John's in Belgrave-gate. Houſes and Ground part of the Town-wall near the Angel. And St. Michael's church-yard, this was given to the then Town Clark, which appears from the deed below. Mr. Cobley of Leiceſter now owns it; the deed he favoured me with. (*a*)

Another

(*a*) This Indenture made the Seaven and Twentyth Daye of Aprill in the three and Thirtith yeere of the Raigne nf our Soveraigne Ladye Elizabeth by the grace of God of Englande Ffrance and Irelande Queene Defendor of the ffaythe &c. Betweene the Mayor and Burgeſſes of the Towne of Leiceſter in the Countye of Leiceſter of the one parte and Wyllyam Dethicke Town Clarcke of the ſame Towne of the other parte Wytneſſythe that the ſaide Mayor and Burgeſſes for and in conſyderacon of the full Satysfactyon and payment of the ſaide Wyllyam for the makinge of manye and ſondrye Wrytings Conveyannce and Aſſureannce att dyvers tymes for and Abowte the onlye Affayors and Conſyne$_s$ of the Corporacon of the ſaid Towne And for Dyvers other good cauſes and Conſyderacon's them the ſaide Mayor and Burgeſſes preſentlye moveinge Have uppon Condycon hereafter Expreſſed Graunted Bargayned Solde Enſeoffed and Confirmed And by theiſe p'ſents under and upon the Condycon hereafter Expreſſed doe for them and theire Succeſſors Grannte Bargayne Sell Enſeoffe and Confirme unto the ſaide Will'm Dethicke his heires and Aſſignes One Parcell of Grounde or Croſte with th' appurteenn'ce called Saynt Mychaells Chuthe Yarde Togeyther w'th one Lane att the Weſtende thereof Lyinge and being togeyther in the p'iſhe of St. Peters in the Towne of Leiceſt'r aforeſayde And ys nowe in the tenure or occupacon of one Robertt Pylkynton or of his Aſſignes And y's parcell of the Lande and Poſſeſſyons of the Anncyent Duchie of Lancaſter and belonginge to the honor of Leiceſter in the ſaide Countye of Leiceſter And alſo all and everye the Woods Underwoods and trees growinge and being and to growe and bee in and uppon the p'myſſes or anye parte or parcell thereof Togeyther w'th the Revercon and Revercon's of the p'myſſes and everye parte and parcell thereof And alſo all and everye the Rents Re'ſved uppon the P'myſſes as fullye freely and in as ample and Lardge manner and forme as our ſayde Soveraigne Ladye the Queene by her Ma'ieſts L'r'es Patent's Sealed with towe ſeveral Seales (viz.) her Highnes greate Seale of Englande and the Seale of her Highneſs Duchie of

Lancaſter

Another account ſays " the particulars of the Lands & Ten'ts of the yearly rent of £20 2*s* 8*d* aſſured in fee farm to George Tatam, and Thomas Clark, in Lewe and payment of £600 of the Town's debt viz. after 30 years purchaſe ;" among which were property at " Houghton, rent 6*s* 8*d* per ann.—Reyreſby, 17*s*.—Hungerton, £1 10*s*.—Syſton Milnes with the holme, £3 6*s* 8*d*.—Thruſſington, 6*s* 8*d*.—Seagrave, 2*s*.—Kirkby-Mallory, 6*s* 8*d*.—Belgrave, 9*s*.—Counteſſthorp, 1*s* 5*d*.—Hinckley, 15*s*.—Bromkinſthorp, 4*s*.—St. Margeret's field, £1 15*s*.—St. Margeret's Cow-paſture, 8*s*.—A Houſe and Orchard called St. Jones, 14*s* 8*d*.—Do. in North-gate, 3*s*.—St. George's Hall and Garden in Leiceſter, 6*s* 8*d*. (*a*)—Otter land at Humberſton, 1*s*.—In Humberſton-gate Leiceſter, 2*s*.—Two Crofts in Leiceſter, 2*s*.—Two pieces of meadow near Leiceſter called the ſhields, 16*s*.—Two acres & a Had-land of meadow near Burgeſs meadow, 13*s*.—One acre ditto, 3*s* 4*d*.—A garden in St. Martin's pariſh, 1*s* 4*d*;—A Cloſe in Braunſton-gate, 5*s*.—Wye cloſe in ditto, 8*s*.—Shawe's land and Eyre's land in St. Martin's pariſh, 5*s*.—A houſe called the Lion in High Street Lei. A Croft in Buxton-lane ; St. Margeret's pariſh, 1*s* 4*d*.—A Garden near the Talbot, 1*s*.—In Weſt fields land, 2*s* 6*d*.—Parradyſe in St. Mary's pariſh, 4*s* 8*d*,—A piece of land in Glenfield meadow, 6*d*.—Checquer cloſe in St. Margeret's pariſh, 1*s*.—In the ſame pariſh near the pinfold a cloſe, 13*s*.—A Tenement &c. in St. Nicholas pariſh, 6*d*.—Tenements on the Town wall and ditch near Satturdaye market, 2*l* 1*s* 8*d*."

The greateſt part of the above were ſold by Tatam, and Clark. At the end of which account it ſays. " The whole ſom rece'd in February 1592, of the ſaid Bargayne made by Tatam, and Clark before mentioned towards the payment of the ſaid £600 of the

Lancaſter bearinge date att Weſt'm the Seavententh daye of Februarye in the One and Thirtith Yeere of her Highnes Raigne (Amonngeſt other things) Dydd geve or grannte the ſame p'myſſes unto them the ſaide Mayor and Burgeſſes and theire Succeſſors and Aſſignes for ever As by the ſaide L'res Patent's Amonngeſt other things more att Lardge dothe and maye appeyre &c.

(*a*) St. George's Hall was adjoining to St. Martin's Church-yard at the eaſt end. I ſuppoſe it ſtood where Mr. Needham's houſe and the Queen's head ſtand. In the Chamberlain's accounts for 1594, it is ſaid to be in Holyrood-lane. Now Town Hall lane.

Townes debt is £556 8s 4d, a certain rent reſerved for the uſe of the Corporation for ever."

Then follows other property ſold in fee farm, reciting ſome articles noticed above which appear not to have been ſold then, tho' mentioned. Theſe are in number upwards of thirty in Leiceſter; ſeveral of which are noticed page 26 of this Hiſtory.

The note below is from the Corporation records, and is explanatory of the above. (a)

1587, *William Ludlam.*
1588, *George Norrice.*

This year the Spaniſh Armada was defeated; previous to which an order from government appeared to demand 40 Soldiers from this Town. At a common Hall the 17th of May, (for the purpoſe of raiſing theſe men, which were to be ready and furniſhed with every

(a) The Corporation was in poſſeſſion of the Grange Lands ab't the year 1585 by virtue of a Demiſe from Queen Elizabeth, and in 1587 they Mortgaged half the ſaid Lands for £400.

Theſe Lands were demiſed by Q. Elizabeth to Fr. Haſtings Eſq. and by him Aſſigned to the Mayor & Burgeſſes the 24th day of June in the 27th year of Eliz. as is recited in the ſaid Deed of Mortgage.

In 1593, It was agreed that the Tennants of the Grange ſhall be diſmiſſed and the Town to place other Tennants for the beſt Profit & Comoditie for the Town.

In the year 1594 the Corporation granted a Leaſe to Edm'd Hawke and others of part of the Grange for 11 years. And alſo Leaſe to Rob't Pilkington of other part thereof for nine yeats & 1-2.

In 1600 the Mayor Bayliffs and Burgeſſes granted a Leaſe to Mr. Parkins and others of a Moyety of the Grange Lands &c. under the following Proviſo:

Provided always, that if the ſaid Mayor Bayliffs & Burgeſſes &c. at any time during the ſaid Terme ſhal be minded to convert the ſame Premiſes or any part thereof into Paſture or otherwiſe to imploy the ſame for the general benefitt & behoofe of all the Inhabitants being freemen of the ſaid Borough of Leiceſter And to and for that end and purpoſe the ſaid Mayor &c. ſhal give notice & warning thereof in Writing under their hands and Com'on Seale unto the ſaid Richard Parkins &c. three months before at the leaſt. Then it ſhall and may be lawfull, for the ſaid Mayor &c. to re-enter and the ſame to have again &c. any thing in theſe Preſents conteyned to the contrary notwithſtanding.

There are a number of rules and orders made by the Corporation from time to time, reſpecting theſe fields; which ſhew that the members of that body, about this time, were ſolicitous to preſerve inviolable the freeman's rights, or rather privileges: In all their tranſactions theſe phraſes generally occur: *Town's Land's, Town's debt, &c.*

The extracts above, which are from a large maſs of information, ſhew that the Corporation ſold property to a great amount, even almoſt all they were in poſſeſſion of, to purchaſe the fine eſtate they now enjoy ſouthward of Leiceſter. A property at this time which would be worth (at leaſt) fifty thouſand pounds. They have alſo another tendency; they point out to us ſome memorable places within and without the precincts of the Borough.

every thing neceſſary at 5 days notice) it was agreed that every Alderman was to pay 13*s* 4*d* and for every one of the 48 (common counſel) 6*s* 8*d*, and all the commons (towns men) were to be taxed towards the charges. " Mem. the Town of Leiceſter was charged with 40 Soldiers footman whi'h were preſt & ſet ffor the readye funnyſhed w'th Arms & Muny given under the leading of George Villiers Eſq." (*a*)

After the defeat of the Spaniſh mighty armament, the Queen went to St. Paul's to return thanks to Almighty God; and every where there were general rejoicings. George Norrice, Mayor of Leiceſter, entertained, in the moſt ſumptuous manner, all the firſt Nobility and Gentry of the County at his Hall. Among which were the following: Henry Earl of Huntingdon, Lord Leiu't of the County; Walter Haſtings, his brother, of Kirby in this County, Eſq. who was a Major General, and commanded the choſen Leiceſterſhire Men who made a part of Tilbury Camp. Thomas Skeffington Eſq. of Belgrave, High Sheriff for the County, and many others of note.

I ſaw many other memorandums reſpecting the raiſing forces in the Town of Leiceſter, in this Reign; but not of that important nature to require notice.

1589,	*John Hind.*
1590,	*John Tatam.*
1591,	*Ralph Chettle.*
1592,	*John Stanford.* (*b*)
1593,	*Robert Heyrick.* (*c*)

1594,

(*a*) Corporation records, (*b*) The Mayors fee by this year's accounts was £13 6*s* 8*d*. Richard Parkins Eſq. the Recorder £4 0 0. The Town Clerk's wages £1 6*s* 8*d*. And Mr. James Clark charges (one of the Burgeſſes in Parliament) £6 6*s* 0.

(*c*) This year the Plague raged in Leiceſter. The accounts ſay " paid charges in making ready at Hallows Church for the Judges to hold the Aſſise in, becauſe the other part of the Town was infected with the ſickneſs."——" Given to Sr. Edward Haſtings, Knight, as followeth: two Loaves of refined Sugar 19*lb* 2*oz*.—24*s*——Pepper 3*oz*—6*s*——Ginger 1*oz*.—1*s* 4*d*.——Cinnamon 2*oz*.—4*s* 0*d*.——Currants 12*lb*.—5*s*.——Raiſins 12*lb*.—3*s* 8*d*.——Pruens 12*lb*—5*s* 0*d*.——1*lb* of Buiſcuits. 1*lb* of Carraway's, & 1*lb* of Cumfets.—£2 11*s* 4*d*."——" Given to the Lord Anderſon Chief Juſtice of England. One bottle of white Wine 1*s* 4*d*. One bottle of Claret 1*s* 4*d*. One bottle of Sack 2*s*. And 1*lb* of Sugar 1*s* 4*d* in toto 6*s* 0*d*."

1594, *George Tatam.*
1595, *William Yates.*
1596, *William Morton.*

This year a poor unfortunate Woman was hanged for being old. "Paid for the charges of meat and drink of old Mother cooke, being kept in the Hall 5 days at the ſuit of Mr. Edward Saunders upon ſuſpicion of Witchcraft, who was afterwards removed to the County Jail and was for the ſame arraigned condemned and hanged. 2*s* 6*d*." Maſter Edward Saunders, deſerved hanging the moſt.

1597, *Thomas Nixe.*
1598, *Thomas Clarke.*

It appears that, in this year, the commonalty of Leiceſter were called upon to pay a portion of the Town's debt, incurred by the Corporation purchaſes, and law expences; towards which, the Aldermen paid 58*l*. The 48 (Common Council) 39*l* 15*s* 6*d*, and the Commonalty 20*l* 11*s* 4*d*. (*a*)

1599, *Edward Newcomb.*
1600, *Robert Gilliot.*
1601, *William Rones*, or *Row*. (*b*)
1602, *James Ellis.*
1603, *William Hunter.*

JAMES I.

1604, *Thomas Chettle.*

The charges incurred in his Mayoralty in obtaining a renewal of the Charter, amounted to £376 10*s* 0*d*.

1605, *Robert Eyrick.*

In his year the expences on the buſineſs of the toll charter was £109 8*s* 10*d*.

1606. *Lib Chamberlain.*

In

(*a*) Wheat was this year at 9*s* a Buſhel. (*b*) I have met with no charges reſpecting the pavement in the ſtreets before this year.

In his year £7 17s 6d of charges were incurred in ſuppreſſing of unruly people who aſſembled to lay open incloſed grounds. And a further charge of £10 10s 0d was paid for two Barrels of Gunpowder, for the uſe of the Town, by the command of the Lord Lieut. the Earl of Huntingdon, to compel the people of Leiceſter to deſiſt from ſuch practices; but this was no ways effectual. For another charge occurs of £15 15s 0d expended by the Mayor and Mr. Gilliot, and others, who went to Cotteſbach to quell an unlawful aſſembly there, and in the neighbourhood, who were deſtroying the fences of incloſed grounds. By the command of the Lord Lieut. a Gibbet was ſet upon the Corn-wall, in Leiceſter, to deter the people from aſſembling on thoſe accounts: which was torn down by the mob, this brought down on Mr. Mayor, and Mr. Robert Erick, the anger of the Earl of Huntingdon, who cauſed them to be confined in their own houſes for not preventing or ſuffering the Gibbet to be taken down without his warrant. A charge of £3 19s 9d occurs alſo this year being the expences of Chamberlain Walker, who was ſent to London with letters to Mr. Recorder, concerning the impriſoning Mr. Mayor, and Mr. Erick. What the iſſue of this was does not appear; but I find that the Corporation was deſirous to appeaſe the Earl's wrath; for a Mr. Hunter was ſent, by the appointment of the Mayor and his brethren, to Aſhby-de-la-Zouch, to preſent a *Gelding* to the younger Counteſs of Huntingdon, for her uſe, as a token of their contrition. The *Gelding* was not received by the Counteſs, for I find it was kept there 12 weeks at the Corporation's expence, in hopes that time would have favoured their offer.

1607, *Thomas Chapman* of Foxon in this County was Mayor. (*a*)

1608, *James Andrew.*

An expence of £107 6s 0d was occaſioned in a ſuit about the tolls taken in Leiceſter. And £96 9s 9d was paid in Hilary

(*a*) A ſingular inſtance of a Mayor living at ſo diſtant a Village from Leiceſter. The late Mr. Ald. Oliver, lived at Birſtal in his laſt Mayoralty; but Birſtal is not more than three miles from Leiceſter.

Term concerning the Charter; which in March 1609 was ready for the Great Seal of England; but the Lord Chanceller would not ſuffer the Great Seal to paſs, becauſe he diſcovered a clauſe, which empowered the Mayors to chuſe a deputy. Great intereſt was made to obtain the Lord Chancellor's conſent; which proved ineffectual. It was therefore drawn anew, leaving out that clauſe. The expence then £109 5s 8d. This Charter differs not ſo materially from that of Eliz. above, as to need a recital.

" Paid for Mulberry Trees commanded to be bought and ſet in divers Counties in the realm, by letters from the Lords of his Majeſties Privy Counſell £1 10s 6d." (a)

1609, *Thomas Parker.* (b)

The Recorder was not preſent at the Election of this Mayor.(c)

1610, *John Mabes.*

The accounts ſay " Paid the charges abowt ſuch perſons as have been viſited by the plague, beſides divers taxations to the charges of the Mayor and the 24 and the 48.——£23 6s 11d." (d)

1611

(a) In my time there has not been leſs than ten or twelve large Mulberry trees cut down in Leiceſter: probably ſome of thoſe ſet at that time.

(b) The plague in Leiceſter. (c) Corporation record.—Sr. Thomas White's Arms were ordered and put up in the Town Hall this year. ibid.

(d) In examining the Pariſh regiſters, at this time, I have gathered the following particulars from them, in the Pariſhes of St. Nicholas and St. Martin.

ST. NICHOLAS.

1611, When the plague was in Leiceſter; out of the 21 who died that year 15 died of the plague. In the month of Aug. 6 died out of one Houſe of the name of Parſons. 7 were the average of burials about this time in a year. A Peſt-houſe is mentioned in a Pariſh book ſtanding in this Pariſh, in the year 1660. Que. might it not have obtained that name from the ſick being placed in it at the plague in 1611?

ST. MARTIN.

The Regiſter, in this Pariſh, informs us that the plague began in Aug. 1610; and the firſt that died was a Child of the name of Courtenay, from the houſe of ffrancis Beſte, buried Aug. 21ſt. Sep. 7th ffrancis Beſte himſelf was buried and the 9th Ann his daughter was buried.

Oct. 27th Richard Kirk was buried. Nov. 9. Nathaniel Kirk was buried. 12th the daughter of Richard Kirk was buried. 13th the ſon of Richard Kirk was buried. 1611. Jan. 9th d. of Agnes Kirk (probably the Wife of Richard) was buried. June 30th Wm. Kirk was buried.

Sep. 1ſt 1610 a ſon of Edward Rude was buried, 2nd. Eliz. Wife of Edward Rude was buried. 20th Edward himſelf was buried.

Sep.

1611. *John Freake.*

Among the charges of this year is one for repairing the ſtreets againſt the coming of the King and Prince, in their progreſs to Leiceſter £26 3*s* 7*d* 1-2. Another was for a ſilver cup and cover preſented to the King Aug. 18th 1612—£20 5*s* 1*d*. Another for the value of a ſilver and gilt cup preſented to the Prince by the Mayor £13 4*s* 0*d*. Fees to the King's officers £34 6*s* 0*d*.

1612, *William Morton.*

Among the charges this year, one is for the carrying a letter to Kibworth, to the County Juſtices to forbid them to call any of the Biſhop's fee men thither 1*s*.

1613, *Thomas Maubye.*

1614, *John Bonnet.* (*a*)

1615, *William Ive.*

William Lord Cavendiſh, Baron of Hardwick, gave to the Corporation a free gift of £100, that they ſhould pay the ſum of 6*s* each to 20 ſeveral poor Houſe-keepers, freemen of Leiceſter, for ever, to buy them Coals.

1616, *Thomas Eyrick.*

1617, *Rowland Puſſey.* (*b*)

1618,

Sep. 7th 1610 Iſable ffletcher was buried : and the day following Ambroſe and Sarah ffletcher was buried.

Sep. 20. 1610 John Slater was buried. 29th Catharine Slater was buried. The day following Tho's Slater was buried. Oct. 1ſt a Daug'r of Tho's Slater was buried. And the 5th a Daughter of John Slater was buried.

May 21ſt 1611 The Wife of John Clark was buried. June 1ſt John Clark was buried. 4th Daughter of John Clark was buried.

June 4th 1611 George Langton was buried. July 5th d. of John Langton was buried. 7th John Langton himſelf was buried.

The above ſhews what havoc it made in ſome families. What is below will ſhew how it abated in the winter months. In Sep. 1610. 21 died. Oct. 13 died. Nov. 12. Dec. 3. Jan. 7th 1611. 4 died. Feb. 10. March 4. April 15. May 17. June 23. July 26. Aug. 15. About this time it ſeems to have abated ; for in the four ſucceeding months only 14 died. The average of deaths in this Pariſh ſome few years before this time, was about 38 ; and in the month of May and June 1611 there died in this Pariſh 38. The number of deaths in one year was 163 ; ſo that one may probably ſuppoſe that 125 died of this dreadful diſorder in this Pariſh.

(*a*) Thurſday the 20th of Aug. 1614, the King came to Leiceſter. *Margin of a book of Mayors.* And in 1616, He came a third time to Leiceſter. *ibid.*

(*b*) Paid Lord Spencer, by Mr. Woodland, the firſt payment for the Land in the South fields, which was purchaſed of him this year for £40.

1618, *Nicholas Gilliot.*

The Corporation recovered, this year, of the Bailiff of North Allexton in the County of York, charge in a ſuit of law, in the Duchy Chamber, for taking toll of a freeman of the Borough of Leiceſter.

The heir of the good Sr. Thomas White was treated by Mr. Mayor, with Sugar and Wine at the expence of 3*s* 4*d*. And in the ſame account "Paid for a broard Arrow given to Mr. Auditor, ffanſhaw, at the Audit holden at the Caſtle of Lei'r, for the rent of the Butt Cloſe. 6*d*."

1619, *John Heyrick.*
1620, *John Pare.*
1621, *James Andrew.* (*a*)
1622, *John Hind.*
1623, *James Ellis.* (*b*)
1624, *William Ludlam.*

In his year 14*s* 10*d* was charged for watching to keep Londoners out of the Town during the plague there.

1625, *William Ive.*

CHARLES I.

1626, *Gilbert Fawcit*
1627, *Francis Churchman.* (*c*)
1628, *William Billers.*
1629, *Roger Cotes.*
1630, *Thomas Smith.*
1631, *John Norris.*

By a payment, in his year, it appears that the plague was at Loughborough, for there is a charge of 13l 10s "To keep Loughborough people forth of the Town."

1632,

(*a*) The firſt year the Earl of Huntingdon nominated a Bailiff.

(*b*) A petition was ſigned by a number of Inhabitants, to the Corporation, to have the Cow-paſture enlarged for their benefit; but it was rejected.

(*c*) In his Mayoralty the broad Arrow price 1s was paid for the rent of the Butt Cloſe; and ſo I found it in ſeveral years after.

1632, *Nicholas Eilliot.*
1633, *Hugh Watts.*

" Charges of Gifts preſented to the King and Queen, at their coming to Leiceſter, with the ffees and Gratuities given to their Highneſſ's Officers & Servants &c. £201 1s 4d." (*a*)

1634, *William Ives.*
1635, *Ralph Tompſon.*
1636, *Richard Inge.* (*b*)

In his year is a charge of £6 11s 6d for the making up £200, for the Ship money.

1637, *Daniel Morſin.*
1638, *John Huide.*
1639, *John Norris.* (*c*)
1640, *William Stanley.*
1641, *Thomas Rudyard.* (*d*)

About this time began the important ſtruggles in the laſt Century; what more particularly relates to this place and its vicinity, I have noticed in the note below, in a kind of journal, abſtracted from *Ruſhworth, Clarendon, Nichol's* Collections of the Public Prints of the day; Journals of the Houſe of Commons, and other Writings. (*e*) The unpubliſhed information which reſpects Leiceſter is chiefly as follows.

(*a*) Corporation accounts, in Hugh Watt's year. (*b*) Aug't the 12th 1636, Ludovicus Prince Palsgrave of the Rhyne dined at the Angel Inn, and was there entertained at the expence of the Corporation, with 3 Gall. of Canary 3 Gall. of Claret, and 3 Gall. of White Wine. *Book of Mayors.*

(*c*) " Paid the ſuffer's by fire at Glen £6 13 4." *Corp. accounts.*

(*d*) " Paid the ſuffer's by fire at Hinkley £6 13 4, and £8 to the inhabitants of Thurmaſton and Burſtale being viſited by ſickneſs." The charges for the year, I find, in watching to keep the ſickneſs from Leiceſter; which prevailed at Thurmaſton, Birſtal, Whetſtone, and Oakam, were £46 8 7. There is in theſe accounts an article with no ſum ſet down. " Paid for Locks & Chains at the Gates and Bridges." Probably to prevent contagion.

(*e*) We find by *Ruſhworth*, that the Civil War originated in this County. " For June 11th 1641, the King iſſued forth a commiſſion of Array for Leiceſterſhire, to the Earls of Huntingdon and Devonſhire, and diverſe Gentlemen therein named, purporting that the Kingdom was in imminent danger, and that a ſmall number of the Members in Parliament had been endeavouring, by way of ordinance, to put the Militia into execution contrary to law. He alledged that by the preſent commiſſion, he was acting according to ancient uſage.

Prince Charles was preſented by the Corporation with £50; but it does not appear why this money was given. And there is alſo a charge of £29 15s 0d "Paid to his Majeſtie's Officers at his firſt coming to Town as fees." By Biſhop Sancroft, we learn that the King was at Leiceſter the 22nd 23d 24th, and 25th of July, 1642.

By the payments of Mr. Robert Heyrick Churchwarden of St. Martin's Leiceſter for the year 1642. It appears by the following items that the King attended divine ſervice at that Church when at Leiceſter.

"Item Given to Mr. White the Counteſs of Devon Gent. for ſetting up the King's throne in our Church 5s."

"Item Paid to Norman for flowers and herbs to ſtraw the Church at the King's coming 1s 8d."

"Item Paid to Knowles for ſix burdens of ruſhes for the Church at the King's coming 2s 0d."

The

On the Saturday following both Houſes reſolved that this commiſſion of Array for Leiceſterſhire was contrary to law, and againſt liberty; and that thoſe who were inſtrumental to its being put into effect, ſhould be deemed betrayers of the People's liberties.

June 20th the King publiſhed a proclamation to require obedience to his will, importing that he acted in a manner that the Kings and Queens his Predeceſſors had always done, reciting therein many inſtances which had formerly occurred.

July 1ſt both Houſes Publiſhed a Declaration, wherein they think it ſtrange that his Majeſty ſhould be ſo miſled by evil Counſellors to iſſue forth ſuch a Commiſſion as had lately appeared in Leiceſterſhire, ſo contrary to the laws, and full of danger to his Subjects.

While theſe things agitated the minds of Men, the Earl of Stamford was appointed by both Houſes Lord Lieu. of Leiceſterſhire; and entered the Town of Leiceſter June 4th, and iſſued forth his warrant to the High Conſtables for ſummoning the train bands, requiring all private Men to appear before Him or his Deputies on the Wedneſday following. The ſame day a Meſſenger came from York with a Writ to the High Sheriff, to publiſh the King's Proclamation. The Earl's warrant being gone forth, the People appeared to the firſt ſummons, the Earl of Stamford in conſequence had them muſtered in convenient places.

As he was doing this, Sir R. Hawford and others prevailed with the Mayor to ſet a Guard on the Magazine there; upon which the Earl, with the Lord Ruthen, Sir Arthur Haſelrig, &c. haſtening thither, removed the ſame to a ſtrong Tower, and afterwards to the Earl's Houſe. On Wedneſday June 15, H. Haſtings Eſq. Son to the Earl of Huntington, arrived at Leiceſter with his Commiſſion, and next day cauſed the Under-Sheriff, in the name of the High-Sheriff, who was abſent, to ſend forth Warrants to the whole County, requiring the Train-bands, the private Men, and the Clergy to come

thither

The Counteſs of Devonſhire lived at Leiceſter Abby at this time, which had been in a great meaſure rebuilt and converted into a Manſion Houſe. And it is probable that there was no perſon in or about Leiceſter, at that time, ſo proper to fix the Throne for the reception of the royal Gueſt in the Church as the Counteſs's Gentleman. Againſt theſe articles there is no month or day of the month entered in the Pariſh book. In the accounts for this year there are an unuſual number of payments for days works done in the Church; they include payments from April 1642, to April 1643. Rudyard the Mayor, was choſen in Sep. 1641, and ſerved till Sep. 1642. So that, in this particular Biſhop Sancroft's account of the King being at Leiceſter in July for four days; the payment of the Corporation to Prince Charles &c. in Rudyard's Mayoralty, and the Pariſh books all perfectly agree.

The two following copies of letters which have been preſerved with great care ever ſince, have been never publiſhed; and I eſteem it a ſingular favour that I am honoured with laying them before

thither the Wedneſday following to be muſtered. The Earl of Stamford on Monday ſet a Guard about his Houſe of 150 of his Neighbours, Tenants and Servants; and the next Morning a Meſſenger, by Warrant from the two Houſes, attacked the Under-Sheriff for ſending forth Warrants by virtue of the Commiſſion of Array, and with a ſufficient Guard carried him to Weſtminſter.

In the Afternoon Mr. Haſtings arrived at Loughborough, and ſent out Warrants himſelf to ſummon all the Towns near him to appear next morning, and being Maſter of certain Coal-mines, he cauſed all his Carriage-horſes to be ready, and raiſed 100 Colliers out of Derbyſhire, whom he armed with Pikes, Muſkets &c. with whom, and what other Friends he could make, he marched with Drums and Trumpets towards Leiceſter. Being come within three miles of the City, he cauſed Powder, Match and Bullet to be delivered among 'em; and ordering the Muſketeers to charge with Powder and Ball, and march with lighted Matches, he led 'em thither.

The Earl of Stamford having intelligence of his March, and being furniſhed with 150 Muſketeers, and 20 good Horſe, well mounted with Carbines and Piſtols, as having likewiſe the Country generally at his devotion, could have laid an Ambuſcabe and cut them off by the way; but being loth to begin a war, he rather choſe to ſtand on his Guard at home. Mr. Haſtings drawing his Company into the Field, few of the Train-bands meeting him on his ſummons, made a Speech, and began to read his Commiſſion of Array; but the High Sheriff cauſed the Votes of the Parliament againſt it to be read. And a Meſſenger from both Houſes attacked the ſaid Mr. Haſtings, and ſeveral other Commiſſioners with him, but they were reſcued; and two Butchers threw Mr. Haſtings into his great Saddle, ſo that he with his Company rode to his Inn, ſhutting up the Gates thereof. And hearing what Forces the Lord Stamford had in readineſs, he (concluding the Sheriff would require their Aid) about Midnight left the Town. However his Followers loſt moſt of their Arms, which the Houſe-keepers, while the others were aſleep, ſeized by

before the Public. A faithful copy of the ſignatures are in the annexed Plate; and alſo a copy of the receipt by Prince Rupert, which followeth the letters.

" To his Freind the Maior of Leiceſter this delivery at Leiceſter.

Mr. Maior

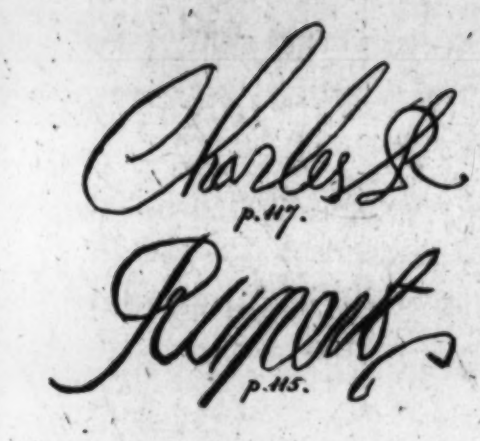
His Ma'tie being confident of your fidelitie to doe him all poſible ſervice, willed mee this day to ſend for you to my Quarters, and there to deliver to you his pleaſure: But I perſeaving you are diſſuaded from comm'g (by whom or what pretenſes I know not) have heer ſent you his Ma'ties demand. His Ma'tie being now ſome what neſſitated by the vaſt expence he hath beene this long time inforced too, for the ſafeguard of his Royall perſon, againſt the rebellious inſurrection of the true Mallignant Party, (whoe are now too well known, and their irreligious intentions too plainly diſcovered by all his loving & obedient Subjects) doth erneſtly deſire, and require you and his good Subjects of the Citty of Leiceſter forthwith to furniſh him with Two Thouſand Pounds ſterling which hee with much care will take order to ſee repaied in convenient time, and that his Ma'ties gratious promiſe I hope will ſeeme much better ſecurity than the Public Faith: which is the uſuall aſſurance that

by direction of the Earl, and carried 'em to his Lordſhip's Houſe; for which Action the ſaid Earl was proclaimed a Traitor by the King, but juſtified by the two Houſes." *Ruſhworth.*

Serjeant Wild's account of the buſineſs in the Houſe of Commons July 6th is that Mr. Haſtings was attempted to be arreſted in a place called Horſe-Lees near Leiceſter, where he and his followers were drawn up. The crime they committed againſt the authority of Parliament was for cocking their Piſtols and Carbines againſt the Meſſengers and Sheriff of their appointment (Haſtings himſelf was appointed Sheriff by the King) for this he was impeached in the afternoon of the ſame day.

Upon this the King, July 4th publiſhed a Proclamation, importing, that whereas, notwithſtanding his Proclamations of May 27th and June 20th, to the contrary, he underſtands ſome illaffected Perſons, intending to diſturb the Kingdom, and weaken his ſtrength (under colour of a pretended Ordinance of both Houſes, made without his Conſent) have in great numbers forcibly ſeized part of the Magazine provided for the ſafety of the Nation, carrying the ſame to their own Houſes: And whereas they have threatened, and endeavoured to apprehend ſome of his Subjects for obeying his Commiſſioners, for endeavouring to ſuppreſs Forces raiſed withour his Licence, or for refuſing to obey the pretended Orders of both Houſes concerning the Militia, he cannot interpret this to be leſs than attempting to levy War againſt him. He therefore by this Proclamation expreſly commands all his Sheriffs, and other Officers and Subjects, upon their

facing p.114.


p.117.

p.115.

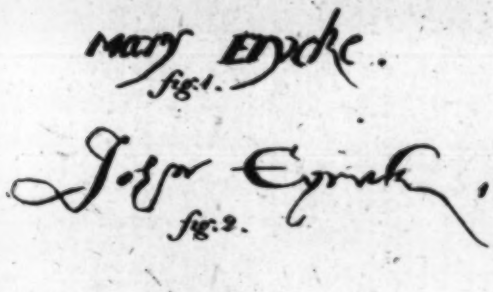

fig.1.

fig.2.

Our Father wch in Heauen art
Lord hallowed be thy Name
Thy Kingdome come thy will be done
In Earth euen as the same
In Heauen is: giue us O Lord
Our dayly Bread this Day
As we forgiue our Debtors; so
Forgiue our Debts wee pray
Into Temptation lead us not
From Euill make us free
For Kingdome Power & Glory thyne
Both now & euer be

fig.3.

given me by his Maj.^ty

C

C/56.

September 9. 1642.

Rowyded by me Prince Rupert
Prince Palatine of the Rhine, & Generall
of all his Maj.^tys Cauallerye in this
present Expedition. the full summe of
three hundred pownds, of for his Matis
use of the Mayor, Bayliffes & Burgesses
of the Borough of Leicester to be repayed
againe by his Majestye. I saye receyued
three hundred pownds.


p.116.

that the party which call themſelves the Parliament doe give: And you muſt truſt them on it, if you aſſiſt not his Ma'tie hereby to defend you againſt them: You muſt not goe leſſe than your former expreſſions have ſpoken you, which induced mee not to doubt of receiving the demanded ſume tomorrow by ten of the clocke in the fore noone that I may be

Your Freind

Quineboro this 6th day of Sep. 1642. RUPERT.

Gg Poſtſcript

their Allegiance, and as they tender the Peace of the Kingdom, not to meddle with any part of the Magazine or Ammunition belonging to the ſeveral Counties of England and Wales, under pretence of any Ordinance made by one or both Houſes without his Conſent. He likewiſe charges 'em to uſe their utmoſt endeavours (as in duty bound) for arreſting and apprehending all ſuch as ſhall by force remove or detain any Magazine, or any Arms of his Train bands, or who ſhall levy or muſter, or arreſt and apprehend any of his Subjects, under pretence of any Ordinance concerning the Militia; and having apprehended 'em to the Common Gaol of the County where they are ſeized, there to remain till they are delivered by due Courſe of Law." *Ruſhworth*

His Majeſty came to Leiceſter, and July the 20th delivered the following ſpeech.

" Gentlemen, Since I have found my preſence ſo very acceptable amongſt my good Subjects in theſe Northern parts, and that the errors and miſtakes amongſt them have wholly proceeded from miſ-information, and are removed with more ſatisfaction and eaſe to them than they were received; I hold it a piece of my duty to take the utmoſt pains I can, fully to inform and undeceive my people; and rather to prevent crimes than to puniſh them. In this errand I am come to you, amongſt whom there hath not beene the leaſt miſunderſtanding, to ſhew you, that I doe not ſuſpect any malice in the place or in the people, though perſons of as ill diſpoſitions have been buſie in it, and amongſt you, as in any County in England, and ſuch who have taken as great pains to do miſchief and to bring confuſion, as good men ſhould for peace and happineſs: though 'tis as true, that very many worthier perſons amongſt you have appeared of contrary affections, which I ſhall always acknowledge. I am come to you in a time too, when nothing could invite me to ſuch a journey, but my affection to and good eſteeme of you; having ſent ſuch propoſitions for peace and accommodation to my two Houſes of Parliament, that I hope to have no other uſe of your affections but in your prayers; being ſure they will ſubmit to them with alacrity, if the inexcuſable enemies to the peace of the Kingdom be not ſtrong enough to prevaile: and then you will finde yourſelves ſo much concerned (for I have required nothing that with more juſtice can be denied me (if it be duly weighed) than my Crowne or my life may be taken from me) that I ſhall not need to aſk your aſſiſtance. I know you will bring Horſe, Men, Money, and Hearts worthy ſuch a cauſe. Your Religion, your Liberties, your Laws (which I will defend with my life, I meane the good known Laws of the Land, not Ordinances without my conſent. which, till within theſe twelve months, was never heard of from the foundation of this Kingdom) will be the quarrell; And in ſuch a cauſe, the taking away my Townes, Ships, Arms, and Money from me, ſhall not diſhearten me: The concurrence and affection of my People, with God's bleſſing, will ſupply and recover all."

It

Poſtſcript If any diſaffected perſons with you ſhall refuſe themſelves or perſuade you to neglect the 'eomand, I ſhall to Morrow appeare before your Town in ſuch a poſture with horſe foote and cannon as ſhall make you knowe tis more ſafe to obey than reſiſt his Ma'ties demand."

Altho this threatening letter frightened the Mayor and Burgeſſes of Leiceſter into a compliance with a portion of the Prince's requeſt, yet it certainly did the cauſe harm in Leiceſter.

" September 7. 1642.

Receyved by me Prince Rupert Prince Palatine of the Rhine, & Generall of all his Majeſtyes Cavallerye in this preſent Expedition, the full ſume of ffive Hundred Pounds for his Ma'ties uſe, of the Mayor Bayliffes, & Burgeſſes of the Borough of Leiceſter: to be repayed againe by his Majeſtye. I ſay receyved ffive Hundred Pounds.

RUPERT."

The

It is eaſily to be underſtood that during theſe commotions in Leiceſter, that the Corporation members, or rather the leading men of that place, were much divided in their opinions of the conduct of both parties. For a letter was ſent to Parliament ſigned by *Wm. Ward*, *David Deakins*, *Richard Ludlam* (who was Mayor the ſucceeding year) and *Wm. Frank*, expreſſing the manner of Mr. Haſtings coming to Leiceſter with Forces and demanding the Magazine, and proclaiming thoſe Traitors for not yielding it up. It was in conſequence reſolved in Parliament that Officers ſhould be ſent down to the County to aſſiſt the Lord Lieut. in putting the ordinance of the Militia into execution. And it was alſo ordered that the Mayor of Leiceſter (Thos. Rudyard) and Dr. Lake ſhall be ſummoned and come in ſafe cuſtody to the Houſe of Parliament. The Mayor, (for what cauſe does not appear,) was kept in confinement ſeveral months.

Augt. the 13th the Commons reſolved " That Henry Haſtings Eſq. ſecond ſon of the Earl of Huntingdon ſhall be accuſed of High Treaſon, for levelling war againſt the King and Kingdom."

Journal of the Commons.

Mr. Haſtings was newly made High Sheriff and was a zealous partizan for the King: he was reproached by the anti-royaliſts, in Leiceſter, with the epithet of *deſperate malignant*, and *notorious malignant*; on the other hand, the Earl of Stamford who was empowered by the Parliament to raiſe and command the Forces in theſe parts; was addreſſed with the appellation of *the noble and pious Earl of Stamford.*

Dec. 13th Parliament appointed the Earl of Stamford General of South Wales and four adjoining Counties, and Lord Grey, his ſon and heir, General of Leiceſter, Nottingham, Derby, Rutland and Lincoln ſhires. He was empowered to raiſe Forces for Parliament, and eſpecially to ſuppreſs the Lord Stanhope, who was then ſaid to be buſie in thoſe Counties in raiſing Forces for the King.

April

The next day came the following from the King.

" To our Truſty and welbeloved ye Mayor and Aldermen of our Town of Leiceſter.

Charles R.

Truſty & welbeloved wee greete you well. Wee have ſeene a warrant under o'r Nephew Rupert's hand dated y'e 6th of this month requiring from you and other y'e Inhabitants of our Towne of Leiceſter y'e loane of £2000, w'ch as wee doe utterly diſavow & diſlike, as being written w'thout our privity or conſent. Soe wee doe hereby abſolutely free & diſcharge you & that our Towne from yelding any obedience to the ſame, & by our owne letters to our ſaid Nephew wee have written to him to revoke y'e ſame, as being an act very diſpleaſing to Us: Wee indeede gave him directions to diſarm ſuch perſons there as appeared to be diſaffected to our Perſon & Government, or y'e peace of this our Kingdome, & ſhould have taken it well from any of our Sub'ts that wonld voluntarily

April 1ſt 1643. Henry Lord Grey of Ruthen, Thomas Lord Grey of Groby, Sr. Arthur Haſelrig, Sr. Edward Hartopp and Sr. Thomas Hartopp Knights, and ſome others were appointed Sequeſtrators of Delinquents for the County of Leiceſter, afterwards Richard Ludlam, Mayor of Leiceſter, and ſome others were added. Ludlam the Mayor, and Alderman William Stanley, were appointed Sequeſtrators for the Town of Leiceſter. Many of the former were appointed commiſſioners to puniſh *ſcandalous Miniſters* i. e. thoſe who preached obedience to the King.

April 15. The Houſe of Commons ordered 6 pieces of Ordinance, 1000 Muſkets, equipage, furniture and ammunition to be ſent with all ſpeed to Lord Grey at Leiceſter.

William Ward a Mercer was choſen Mayor in 1643, friendly to the intereſt of Parliament; but ſome how it happened that a difference aroſe between the Mayor and late Mayor, (Richard Ludlam, who had changed his buſineſs of a Chandler for that of a Captain of foot) and Lord Grey. In Jan. 1643-4 it was recommended by the Houſe of Commons, to the Lord General, to compoſe the difference between my Lord Grey, and the Mayor of Leiceſter and Capt. Ludlam.

Several Skirmiſhes happened about this time in Leiceſterſhire and parts adjacent. In Feb. Sir John Gell took a party of the King's Horſe. Sir John Gell joined the Earl of Mancheſter's Forces at Melton Mowbray to the amount, in all, of about 5000 foot, and 2000 horſe. Near Melton Mowbray in one Skirmiſh, the King's Troops loſt two cornets of horſe, and the Parliament's a whole Troop near Burley-Houſe. Soon after a Troop of the King's where taken at or near Somerby, and taken Priſoners to Leiceſter. A public print of the day mentions that Capt. Ludlam was ſent Priſoner to Burley-Houſe for an affront given to Coſonel Grey; but on his return he had humbled himſelf to his Lordſhip which might prove a good example to others and teach them better manners. In a Skirmiſh one of Lord Grey's Captains

voluntarily aſſiſt us w'th y'e Loane of Armes or Money, but it is ſoe farr from our hart or intentions by Menaces to compel any to it, as wee abhor y'e thought of it; & of this truth our accions ſhall bear us teſtimony.

Given att our Court att Nottingham, 8 Sep'bris 1642."

Mayor & Aldermen of Leiceſter, on the back of this letter.

1642, *Richard Ludlam.*

This Magiſtrate was an exceedingly active man on the ſide of Parliament, as may be ſeen by the note below.

1643, *William Ward.*

In this years accounts an article occurs rather extraordinary. "Paid for Wine and Sugar given to the Receiver of the King, Queen, and Prince's Retinue 5*s* 1*d*."

1644, *William Billiers*, a Haberdaſher, was Mayor of Leiceſter during the ſiege, the particulars of which are in the note below. A ſhort account follows.

The

tains loſt 8 of his men; and that on the 26th of Feb. ſome Country-men brought into Leiceſter a Cavalier Priſoner who after being a while there got away by ſwiming over two Rivers.

March the 11th two letters were read in the Houſe of Commons of a victory gained over the King's Forces at Hinkley, by part of the Garriſon of Leiceſter. One of the letters are as follows.

Leiceſter, March 5. "Generall Haſtings hath had a great loſſe of his men in Leiceſterſhire, as it appeareth by letters out of thoſe parts, dated March 5, in theſe words, Yeſterday at night, Haſtings men were abroad at a Town in our County, called Hinckley, and had brought in thither ſixe and twenty honeſt Countrey men, from ſeverall Townes, intending to carry them to Aſhby-de-la-Zouch, and they had taken alſo about fourſcore kine, oxen, and horſe from the Countrey people; they likewiſe took a Miniſter named Mr. Warner, whom they much abuſed, and threatened to hang him. All their Priſoners they put into Hinckley Church, and, in a jeering manner, aſked them, 'Where are the Round-heads your brethren at Leiceſter, why come they not to redeem you? But the intelligence of theſe things coming to our Town of Leiceſter, all our horſe being gone to Newarke, wee were faine, every private townesman to ſpare his own horſe, and to ſend away 120 of our foot ſouldiers, and ſome 30 troopers that lie at Bagworth houſe, to keep it from the enemy, under the command of Colonell Grey, whom the Lord Grey hath made Governour of Leiceſter. Theſe our forces being upon their march to Hinckley, took the enemies ſcouts, and, without much reſiſtance, entered the Town. killed one of the enemies captaines named Mainwaring, and foure or five more of their ſouldiers, and wounded nine of them very ſore, took two of their Lieutenants, one quarter-maſter, one enſigne, 45 priſoners. and 100 horſe, releaſed all the country.men, reſcued the cattell, and reſtored them to the right owners, and came home with victory and booty the next day, being Shrove-Tueſday. None of our men were ſlaine there, onely foure of them

The ſiege of Leiceſter had for its object the annoyance of ſome of the moſt forward and formidable Enemies of kingly government, in theſe Dominions. Men, who had brooded over the real and imaginary grievances of the State, till their minds grew intoxicated with the wild reveries of reformation, liberty, and equalization; thoſe, too often, flattering dreams of perfection and proſperity.

The people of this little Province, early in the reign, ſhewed a ſpirit of reſtleſſneſs; even thoſe who profeſſed themſelves to be the teachers of the peaceable doctrines of Jeſus, haſtened with their appeals to the door of the Houſe of Commons urging the members, by their heated zeal, eventually, to war and deſolation.

The King, on the other hand, unwilling to loſe even a ſhadow of that prerogative which he had received from his royal Anceſtors, marched with an Army of determined friends towards Leiceſter, to cruſh the power which had ariſen in that place and was become extremely injurious to his views and intereſt. There ſat the grand committees

them were wounded, whereof one was caſually hurt by Colonell Grey, becauſe he forgot our word which was, *God proſper us*; the enemies word being, *For the King*. Our men went on very courageouſly; and if they had not been too greedy of prey, they had neere taken them all; the enemies forces were to the number of 300, and ours about 150. This morning wee heard from Newarke upon Trent; the beſiegers whereof ſent us word, that they had taken the out-works, and one Drake. Wee expect every houre to hear from them." *Military Scribe.*

Parliament were alſo informed at the ſame time that divers Miniſters of the County refuſed to take the Covenant, and were kept in cuſtody at Leiceſter. The Miniſters were ordered to be brought to London in ſafe cuſtody and their eſtates to be ſequeſtered.

A Skirmiſh in March happened at Coot's bridge, near Loughborough, where Col. Haſtings forces where in great ſtrength.

The following was publiſhed March 26th in a paper called *Mercurius Veridicus*.

" Sir Charles Lucas and the Lord of Loughborough having united their forces together, Sir John Meldrum commanded Sir Edward Hartoppe to incounter with them with a party of horſe from the ſiege of Newark, fearing that the enemy ſhould fall upon the garriſon of Leiceſter, which were then but in a weak condition; they came to Loughborough, and were aſſiſted with the Lord Graye's regiment, where diſcharging a great peece upon the enemy, which did great execution amongſt them, they forced them to retreat, and by that means gained the bridge, which was half a mile in length. The enemy, after this, drew into a great medow, and divided into five bodies, and without any blow only faced our men till night, at which time they retreated; and Sir Edward Hartop having intelligence that Prince Rupert was not far off, accompanied with two thouſand horſe, and as many foot, Sir Edward retreated towards Newark, and the Lord Grey towards Leiceſter, which now continueth in a good condition. We are ſince informed, that Prince Rupert, ſtrengthened with the additionall ſupplyes of the Lord Loughbourowe's and Sir Charles Lucas's

committees of the midland diſtrict; the moſt formidable then in the kingdom, in aid of the ſchemes of Parliament. Its central ſituation commanded the moſt early intelligence of the movements of the little flying armies and ſcouting parties, which every where abounded in its vicinity; and from whence Parliament received daily intelligence and advice, in the meaſures about to be undertaken.

At this time, ſome of the leading men of the Corporation were men of buſineſs, intrigue and diſcernment; theſe formed a part of the committees of ſafety, and intelligence, and were members of the committee for the confiſcating of the property of the King's friends.

Charles, we find, by Simond's account below, encamped in the plains or meadows near Ailſtone for two or three days preceeding the ſiege; and the day before it he marched his Army and ſat down before the Garriſon of Leiceſter in St. Mary's field. The day was ſpent in preparing for the ſiege, and in parlies and threatenings. The

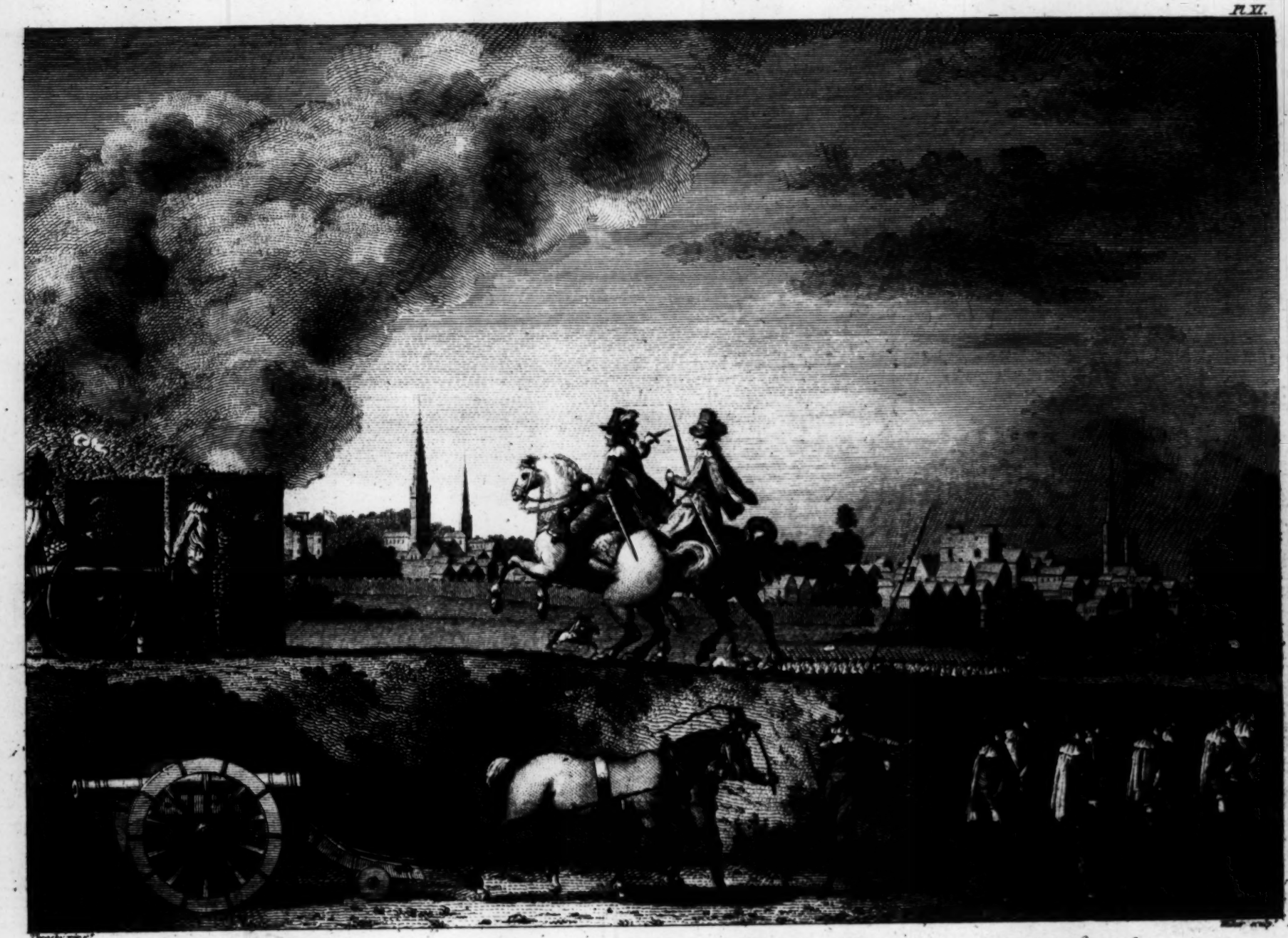
Lucas's forces, hath advanced before Newark, and raiſed the ſiege; there was ſome incounter betwixt the Parliament forces and his, wherein the Earle of Manchester's foot ſhewed not that courage and reſolution as was expected: there were taken ſome peeces of ordinance and divers arms; the firſt charge from Prince Rupert was very violent. The enemy was much ſtronger than was reported; and it hath pleaſed God, for our humiliation, to give them there the better of us; yet ought we not to be diſcouraged; Victory flyes on uncertaine wings; and on that ſide to which it ſtooped not to-day, it may pleaſe God it may alight on the morrow."

March 13th 1644, a letter was read in the Houſe of Commons from Col. Grey, Governor of Leiceſter, dated May the 11th, in confirmation that the Newcaſtle Forces were marching towards Leiceſter, fearing a ſiege. In this month Col. Goring marched with 4000 horſe through Leiceſterſhire, and had a Skirmiſh with Lord Grey. In April Sir John Gell routed two troops of Col. Goring's Horſe. And at Belgrave Col. Haſtings was beaten by a party from Leiceſter.

Sep. 4th a petition of the Inhabitants of Leiceſter, repreſented "The inconvenience which happened to the County upon the differences that had ariſen between Lord Grey's Officers, and the Committee."

In September ſome horſe from Leiceſter, routed a party belonging to Col. Haſtings, and took 60 priſoners. And by *Whitlock* we are informed, that in October, "A party of Col. Haſtings' men came to Loughborough on the lord's day, rode into the church in ſermon-time, and would have taken away the preacher; but the women reſcued him, and proved themſelves more valient than their huſbands or Haſtings' men" This is too much tinctured with party to go down. A few women reſcuing a man from a party of armed horſe ſoldiers, in the preſence of their huſbands, is too abſurd a relation to be believed.

In November, Aſhby-de-la-Zouch Garriſon was beſieged by the forces from Leiceſter, joined by others from Derby; this combined force, fortified a great houſe near; which of itſelf was defencable, and commanded the chiefeſt paſſages into that place; but as ſome of the officers of the parliament's forces were making



Thornby pinx.t

PRINCE RUPERT summoning the Garrison of LEICESTER to surrender to the Army of CHARLES the first. May 30th 1645.

Published by J.T. HROSBY, Leicester, March 26th 1790. & sold by Wm J. Walker, Engraver, Rawmarsh St. London.

The night brought on the thunder and lightning of Cannon, and the rattling of Cannon-balls on the houſes, and in the ſtreets.—Towards the morning, a breach was made in the out-works where a number of its brave defenders fell. It is ſaid that, at the breach, many women fought with the moſt reſolute courage, and ſpurned at danger. The Garriſon were at length driven from the fortifications, at and near the old Caſtle in the Newark, to St. Martin's Church and Church-yard, where they made a ſtand; but where ſoon after driven thence from ſtreet to ſtreet, avenue to avenue, into the market-place, where a ſmall deſperate party made a feeble reſiſtance, and where moſt of them were butchered by the King's ſoldiers, owing, it has been ſaid, to the raſhneſs of the Town's people, who fired from their windows upon the King's troops, who in revenge deſtroyed all they met. The houſe where a remnant of the Committee were ſitting they alſo deſtroyed, and every ſoul therein was put to the ſword.

We

king merry at a gentleman's houſe near, they were ſurpriſed by 10 or 12 horſe ſoldiers from the garriſon, and made priſoners. In Dec. (by Whitlock's account) the forces of the Garriſon were driven from all parts of the town into the caſtle, and divers priſons taken.

Feb. 4, 1645, *Whitlock* ſays, "That Col. Haſtings, for the King, ſent out warrants for carriages to fetch hay to Aſhby; the Parliament's forces ſent out their warrents to bring the hay to Coleorton; but Haſtings was too quick, and had compelled the country to load the hay, and with a ſtrong guard was bringing of it to his garriſon. Captain Temple, the high-ſheriff of the county, having notice thereof, with his troop got between them and Aſhby in the van, and three troops of Derby following in the rear, after a little engagement, Haſtings' men fled, and were routed and purſued, 40 of them taken priſoners, 60 horſe arms, and all their hay."

Feb. 25, Between Harborough and Leiceſter a ſkirmiſh happened, betwixt a party of the king's forces, commanded by Sir Marmaduke Langdale, and a party of the parliament's forces. The latter loſt about 100 men killed, and 250 taken priſoners; beſides a conſiderable number of horſes. The victors lay in Leiceſter that night, and there received orders to collect a ſufficient force, and proceed to the relief of Newark, then beſieged by the parliament's forces, but in their paſſage thither, they were attacked by a party of the enemy, commanded by colonel Roſeter, near Melton Mowbray, in this county. The royaliſts ſuſtained the ſudden and deſperate attack of the enemy with great bravery, altho' inferior in numbers, and at laſt obliged them to retire. leaving 170 dead in the field, and ſome horſes; which helped to remount ſome of the king's men who had loſt theirs in this conflict. The wounded men of the king's forces were left at Belvoir-Caſtle.

"Sir Marmaduke Landale routed a great body of rebels, conſiſting of at leaſt 1200 horſe and dragoons, commanded by Col. Roſſiter, a Scot, near Melton Mowbray in Leiceſterſhire; killed above 30 of them,

took

We will neither defend the raſhneſs of the Town's people, when all was loſt; nor the barbarity of the King's forces. The public prints of the day, are full of invectives againſt the royal Army for the deſtruction of their fellow creatures, whom, they ſay, were hacked to pieces when on their knees begging earneſtly for mercy.

Such is the brief account of this memorable ſiege. Its ſubjection to the King was of very ſhort duration, for in the ſucceeding month, after the fatal Battle of Naſeby, it was given up to Fairfax without a ſhadow of reſiſtance.

In the payments this year are ſome things curious, which prove that the Corporation was plundered of all their regala, and valuable moveables; even their charter they were ſtriped of by the conquerors, who it could not be expected would ſhew them much favour, their leading men being exceedingly active partizans againſt the King; the Mayor, Mr. Billers, and ſome of the leading Aldermen being upon the Committee who ſat in Leiceſter to ſequeſter property,

took 46 priſoners, with four colours of horſe, with the loſs of Sir John Girlington, a gallant Knight, Captain Gaſcoigne, and not above 6 or 7 common ſoldiers on his Majeſty's part."

"Sir Marmaduke Langdale's party were met by Colonel Roſſiter near Melton, where they had a ſharp encounter, and loſs on both ſides. Of Langdale's party were ſlain Colonel Tuke, Major Kerlington, Captain Markham, and about 100 others; of Roſſiter's about 50, but no officers; he loſt one colour, and took two. Langdale got proviſions into Newark, and was recruited to 3000, and Roſſiter followed him with 2000." *Various prints of the day.*

"On Tueſday, May 22, 1645, the King was at the Earl of Huntingdon's: Wedneſday the 28th, at Coates, Sir Harry Shipworth's; Thurſday the 29th, at Elſtone near Leiceſter, which was ſaced by the King's army. The *R.* defaced with fire. Here he ſtayed two nights. Saturday the 30th at Leiceſter, which was taken by the King at two o'clock. The ſoldiers were rewarded by plunder. The ſlain about equal on both ſides. Afterwards the King's forces deſtroyed the Abbey by fire." *Richard Simmonds*, who was a Quarter-Maſter in the King's army, gives the following account of the ſiege of Leiceſter.

"Garriſons in Com Leiceſter"

R. Leiceſter ye Countie ye Rebel Govr Thop. Grey.

"R. Cole-Overton, a Town of ye Ld Beaumont, one myle from Aſhby Temple Gov. 50 men."

"K. Aſhby-de-la-Zouch. Henry Hoſtings, born at Loughborongh Govr. the ancient ſtate of Hoſtings Ea. of Huntingdon 600 men."

"R. Bagworth Houſe or a lodge, is a part of Lady Mauds houſe 5 myles from Aſhby. 50 men."

"R. Kirby Bellows a Town of Sr Eraſm de la fountagne this man ran away at the news of Sr Marmaduke Langdale's fight, but came again 50 men."

"To all theſe garriſons above mentioned the yearly contribution amounted to fourſcore and ſeaventeene Thouſand pounds with the countie of Leiceſter only."

"Of

property, ſend out ſcouting parties for intelligence, and give information to Parliament of the tranſactions of the armies &c. in theſe parts.

" Paid to——to redeem the Town charters being ſeized when the King's Forces tooke the Towne."—— no ſum mentioned.

" Paid for the Statute Seal to a Soldier 5*s*."

" Paid for 2 Seals; the Common Seal braſs, the Mayor's Seal ſilver £1 9*s* 0*d*."

" Paid for the new Mace being ſilver and gilt 24 6 6."

" Paid to ſundry workmen for taking down divers Houſes near the South gate £3 3 0" Moſt likely they had been much damaged by the ſtorming of that part of Leiceſter.

An article of a different nature occurs this year which explains the *wood money*, now given yearly, by the Aldermen of the ward over which they preſide " Paid to——poore people——a peice to buy the wood, being the rent of 40 acres in the foreſt of Leiceſter £10 0 0."

" Of late Belvore Caſtle has one hundred allotted to it out of this Shire."

" And the whole number of men were not above 1500 in all ye Garriſons."

" Wedneſday May 28. 1645."

" His Maj'tie marched w'th his army into Cole Orton garriſon of the —— then by the Abby of Gracediew where Sr Thos Beaumont lives, there remains an entire Court of Cloiſters."

" Thurſday his Maj'tie marched and pitched down before Leiceſter Citty a garriſon of the rebels & commanded by Thos Grey 3d brother to the Ea of Kent."

" Friday 30 His Highneſs P. R. ſent a Trumpet after he had ſhott 2 great peices at the town to ſummons yt for his Maj'tie offering the Burgers & Corporation pardon. They detayne his trumpet & about 1 of clock in the afternoon in the interim the prince raiſed a battery for 6 great pieces upon a hill where ſometimes of old had been ſuch another, about 2 o'clock one of the Leiceſter Trumpets was ſent deſiring time to conſider of it till the morrow morning. He would not rayſe any works during this parley his highneſs telling the tr. if he came again w'th ſuch errand he would lay him by the heels, about half an hour after he comes again with a note directed thus. To the Commander in chief deſiring time till y'e morrow morning. The prince committed ye trumpet to his Marſhall till the firſt trumpet they keepe. Then the P. about 3 of the clock ſent them an anſwer in lowder terms, 6 great pieces from the fort on the ſouth ſide of the Town playing on a ſtone wall-yard & made ere ſix of the clock a breach of great ſpace, muſket and cannon continually putting us in mind of ſomething down. The Town of Leiceſter was chiefly governed by a committee viz."

" Sir Thos. Pye of Farringdon came 2 or 3 days unto the Town and was a great means of reſiſting the pr."

" Mr.

1645, *Edmund Cradock.*
1646, *Danet Abney* Gent. the ſecond Gent. I have ſeen added to the name. I have by me the trades and profeſſions of all the Mayors from about 1600, to the preſent time. It is a piece of information, I apprehend, that very few would thank me for, in conſequence I have omitted it.
1647, *Thomas Blount.*

An article in this year ſays " Received fines for Tythes of Danets Hall Weſtcotes &c. £120."

Money was ſo ſcarce about this time that principal traders of Towns paſſed tokens for the uſe of themſelves and neighbours. The annexed Plate contains copies of moſt of them coined in Leiceſter. The date of the earlieſt known is 1648, the lateſt 1672.

1648, *William Stanley.*

" £6 12ſ was given to the ſufferers by fire at Lutterworth."

About the time of the King's death the enemies to the eſtabliſhed Church made a practice of taking Jack-aſſes into the Churches of Leiceſter,

" Mr. Knett of Dunton, Mr. Haſelrigg, Ludlam a Chandler there, Mr. Payne of Medbourne, Newton of Houghton a ſometime, High Conſtable, Read of Korlby Mr. Stevens Stoneley a Mercer there by the weſt gate."

" After the breach was made in the wall by the Cannon, by 6 o'clock they in the Town had gotten up a handſome retrenchment and with 3 flankers (a great Spaniſh piece) within 4 or 5 yards of the wall."

" All the evening was a general preparation to aſſault the Town and a little afore 12 of the clock in the night this violent ſtorm began and continued till after one."

" Col. Geo. Leſlie Tertia fell on upon the breach and were beat off and the K. ſent his foot reg. of life guards to aſſiſt but they got fully in before."

" Col. Bards Tertia fell on with ſcalling ladders ſome neer a flanker and others ſcaled the Horn work before the draw bridge on the eaſt ſide."

" Sir Barnard Aſteleyes Tertia fell on the north ſide which is the river ſide & a draw nigh the abby."

" Col. John Ruſſel w'th the princes Reg't the blew Cotes and alſo the princes firelockes aſſaulted."

" They ſet up the princes black collers on the great battery where Ea of Northtown's horſe about one of the clock where let in at the ports & they ſcowered the lyne and Town, in the mean time ye foot gott in & fell to plunder ſo that ere day fully opened ſcarce a cottage unplundered. There were many Scotts in the town & no quarter was given to any in the heat, more dead bodyes lay in within the lyne farr than what are in the Groff. I told 30 or more at the breach, as many within as without. Every ſtreet had ſome I believe 200 on both ſides."

" We loſt Col. St. George—Major Bunnington ſhot in the eye juſt as he reached on the top of the ladder."

" 28



The Tradeſmen's Tokens above, from No. 1 to 15, incluſive, are from Tokens uſed in the County. Thoſe from No. 15 were iſſued by the following perſons in Leiceſter.

16. Francis Elliot, 1655.
17. James Lee, 1656.
18. David Deakins, 1657.
19. David Deakins, 1664.
20. John Goodhall, 1666.
21. Robert Page, 1666.
22. John Pares, 1666.
23. Edward Read, 1666.
24. Nathaniel Baker, 1667.
25. Daniel Heggs, 1667.
26. John Browne, 1669.
27. Jane Laſh, 1669.
28. William Savidge, 1670.
29. John Maſon.
30. Mary Mountney.
31. Richard Noone.
32. I. W. N. at the Red Lyon.
33. Tho. Overing.
34. Jane Palmer.
35. William Spencer.
36. Thomas Sturges.
37. Richard Woodroffe.
38. Samuel Willſon.


G.R.
III
BRITISH MUSEUM

Leiceſter, and led them to the fonts in ridicule of the Church baptiſm. This audacious practice created much wrath in the Town, ſeveral Battles were fought at the Church doors in conſequence; but the liberty men in general prevailed. No wonder; in times like thoſe we are noticing, that ſuch indecencies ſhould be practiced. The multitude have often ſtruggled to affect a change; but they have not always bettered their condition by it; in the iſſue *they* muſt be governed.

1649, *William Speachley.*

Theſe articles occur in his time "Rec'd of Mr. Churchman by Alex. Baker, being money given for the uſe of the poor of this Corporation by divers well affected (diſaffected to the King) after the ſtorminge of the Towne £200."

"Paid for taking down the King's Arms——"no ſum mentioned. I ſuppoſe there would be help enough to take them down, without pay, after the King was dead.

"Paid the Clerk to the Commiſſioners that came down to ſurvey and inquire after the king's revenue 10*s*.

1650,

"28 or 30 officers Major of the pr R. firelockes. The army of horſe faced in bodyes all night in ſundry places. About day about 10 of the enemy got out and eſcaped by the river ſide and were followed."

"His Majeſtie Qua. this friday night at Leiceſter abby the Counteſs of Devon's houſe."

"His Majeſtie reſted at Leiceſter abby The army of foot in Leic. The Horſe round about in Corpes & villages."

"The depoſition of Humphrey Brown of Witſondine, in the County of Rutland, on the trial of the King."

He ſwore "That at ſuch time as the town of Leiceſter was taken by the forces of Charles the Firſt, "being in or about June 1645, Newark fort, in Leiceſter, was ſurrendered to the king, upon condition "that neither cloaths, nor money, ſhould be taken from any of the garriſon, which had ſurrendered; nor "any violence ſhould be offered to them; and that as ſoon as the fort was upon ſuch conſideration ſo "ſurrendered, the king's ſoldiers. contrary to the articles, fell upon the ſoldiers of the fort; did ſtrip and "wound many of them: whereupon one of the king's officers rebuking ſome of thoſe ſoldiers, this de-"ponent did hear the king ſay, *I do not care if they cut them more, for they are mine enemies,* or "words to ſuch effect. And that the king was on horſeback, in bright armour, in the ſaid town of "Leiceſter."

Another officer who was preſent at the ſiege, blames the town's people very much for their raſhneſs. He ſays, "Men and women fought in the breach to ſhew their over zeal in defending the town." They afterwards mounted the tops of houſes, and threw ſtones and tiles upon the king's troops as they paraded the ſtreet. From one houſe, in the market-place, where the Parliament Committee and the Scots Depu-

ties

1650, *John Summerfield.*

In his time there was a fire at Burton-Overy, towards the loſſes the ſufferers ſuſtained, the Corporation paid £6 13 4. But a more remarkable payment occurs: "Paid for wine, and the Miniſters dinners, that kept the frydays lectures, and days of humiliation, £4 1 8, and for charges for Miniſters on the Lord's days, and wedneſdays, ſince Mr. Angel, and Mr. Price left the Town." Theſe were, moſt probably, the King's friends, or thoſe, amongſt many others, who favoured not the King's death, uſurpation and tyranny that followed.

It is ſomewhat ſingular to remark what a number of fires there happened in the County, about this time.

1651, *Alexander Baker.*

In this year the Corporation paid ſome poor ſufferers by a fire at Crapſon £5 0 0.

A terrible fire broke out at Lutterworth, towards the loſs, the Corporation paid £10 0 0. And in the four ſucceeding years. There

ties were ſitting, ſome raſh people fired, and killed and wounded about ſeven or eight of the king's dragoons, upon which the ſoldiers grew ungovernable, ſecured every avenue leading from the houſe, broke open the doors, and killed every perſon without diſtinction found therein. Col. Grey, the Governor, was wounded and taken priſoner with ſome inferior officers, and about 300 men."

There is a charge in the Church-wardens accounts for the pariſh of St. Martin, that year, for the payment of Wm. Haſtwell, maſon, for "Leivenige down many graves which weare taken up att the buri- "enge of ſeveral great officers of the king's army, which was ſlaine at the ſtormeinge of the town." One officer was buried in the ſame church, who died of his wounds, at the Red Lion Inn.—There is an oral tradition in Leiceſter, that ſeveral people loſt their lives in this church-yard, where part of the garriſon had been driven by the Royaliſts; ſome, it is ſaid, gained admittance into the church and annoyed the king's forces from the battlements and leads. It appears from the following charge in the pariſh book, of that time, that the king's forces broke into the church to drive them thence. "Paid Francis Motley for mendinge the locks of the church doors broke by the king's army 3s."

Heath's Chronicle of the day ſays "After Prince Rupert had ſummoned it, wherein he offered quarter to the town, the Committee of that County, then reſident there, aſſembled all the commanders, and read the ſummons unto them; by whom it was reſolved to give anſwer next morning. The trumpet was no ſooner returned, but a drum was preſently diſpatched for a full anſwer within an hour; which while they debated beyond their ſtint, the king's guns played from the battery, and all ſoldiers were commanded to their reſpective poſts; the great and ſmall ſhot never intermitting that day and night; when next morning they ſtormed at ſix or ſeven places. At Newark-breach they entered firſt, where Colonel St. George was ſlain with a great ſhot, in a bravery and galantry of courage, venturing upon the mouth of the cannon. The works being ſeized, there yet remained a work of greater bloodſhed, the market-place, where the de-

fendants

There was a fire at Hinckley, towards the loſſes ſuſtained thereby, they paid £5. One at Aſfordby, £5. Another at Wimeſwould, they paid £3 19 10. At Desford there was one, to the ſufferers there, they paid £10 0 0. And one at Ratby, £3 6 8.

1652, *William Billars.*
1653, *Edmund Johnſon.*
1654, *Richard Ludlam.*

This Gentleman, it has been ſhewn ſerved during the troubles, in a civil and military capacity, and has been noticed by every writer who particularized the tranſactions of the times in this Diſtrict; a man whom we muſt imagine had abilities ſuperior to his brethren in office, which the times called forth into action. By Simond's account of the ſiege, he lived near the Weſt-bridge, and by the accounts which I have of the various profeſſions of the Mayors of Leiceſter, he was a Chandler, as I have noticed above, and I rather think a Slater and Plaſterer alſo.

fendants had drawn up their artillery, and for three hours ſpace maintained the fight at the croſs therein. They were at laſt over-powered; the Committee-men, with Sir Robert Pye, Colonel Hacker, and Colonel Grey, taken priſoners, and put into cuſtody; only Sir Robert had ſome more reſpect ſhewed him. The town was plundered, and ſome of the inhabitants for the preſent ſecured; the ſpoil part of it carried away to the King's adjacent garriſon of Newark, Aſhby-de-la-Zouch, and Belvoir Caſtle; but the Parliament forces found very near as good booty in thoſe ſudden ſpoils that came from Naſeby. All men upon this ſucceſs looked upon the King's army as far the more puiſſant. Great fears and diſtruſts were ariſen in the Parliament itſelf, not much different from deſpair; ſeveral members being over-heard to ſay in their paſſage to the Houſe out of Weſtminſter-hall, that there was no hopes but in the King's mercy, and that the ſpedieſt recourſe thereto would be the ſafeſt expedient for them. And the Royal party were as good as ſure that the day was their own; which they made appear, even in London, by all publike ſignes and diſcourſes. The King himſelf, deceived alſo with this lightning before his ruine, which he conſtrued for the brighteſt ſunſhine of his felicity, was of the ſame opinion; the reſult whereof appeared in a letter written to the Queen, June the 8th, where he uſed this expreſſion; "I may without being too ſanguine affirm, that ſince this rebellion my affairs were never in ſo hopeful a way!"

Mercurius Ruſticus gives this account "May 30, his Majeſty's army ſate down before Leiceſter; and the morrow morning early tooke it by ſtorme, and in it the whole Committee, Sir Robert Pye, and many hundred priſoners, many horſes, much powder, arms and ordnance, and great ſtore of wealth. In the aſſault, on his Majeſty's part, were ſlaine Colonel Saint George, and about 80 others; but of the Rebels about 120. The ſame day the Rebels quitted their ſeveral garriſons of Bagworth, Cole-orton, Kirby-bellares, and Burleigh.—Whilſt his Majeſty's army was thus buſied at Leiceſter, Sir Thomas Fairfax, (the Rebels' new general) lay ſome 15 days blocking up of Oxford, though fruitleſſely; for by ſeveral ſallies thence, he loſt many of his men, ſome killed, others taken priſoners, and not a ſmall number running

The firſt of this name that occurs in the liſt of Mayors, was a William Ludlam, who ſerved the office in 1587. Another William, probably his ſon, ſerved in 1624, whoſe ſon, moſt likely, was this Richard, who ſerved in 1642, and 1654. There was a Thomas Ludlam about this time in Leiceſter, in the building line alſo, whoſe name I have to an inſtrument in the year 1633; who was appointed with ſome others to make an eſtimate of part of the materials of the Caſtle, and of the neceſſary repairs of another part of that building; but whether a brother or not, it is not certain. But thus much is certain, that the late Mr. Ald. Edmund Ludlam of reſpectable memory, and the late Rev. Mr. Wm. Ludlam, his relation, were of this family, and probably from this quondam Captain and leading Magiſtrate of Leiceſter. It ſeems that no portion of his abilities has been diminiſhed in paſſing from him to his deſcendants.

1655, *George Martyn.*

1656,

ning away, ſo that he raiſed his ſiege thence the beginning of June; and June 4, he aſſaulted Borſtall-houſe, commanded by Sir William Campion for his Majeſty; but was beaten off with the loſſe of 300 of his men, the brave garriſon loſing but one man, and four hurt.—June 6, there fell a ſtrange haile-ſtorm in that part of Leiceſterſhire which is in and about Loughborough; ſome of the haile-ſtones were as big as ſmall hens eggs, and the leaſt as big as muſket-bullets: it deſtroyed the corne, and did much hurt in that part of the country where it fell."

Another account ſays "The King's forces, having made their batteries, ſtormed Leiceſter; thoſe within made ſtout reſiſtance; but ſome of them betrayed one of the gates; the women of the town laboured in making up the breaches, and in great danger. The king's forces having entered the town, had a hot encounter in the market-place; and many of them were ſlain by ſhot out of the windows; that they gave no quarter, but hanged ſome of the Committee, and cut others to pieces. Some letters ſay that the kennels ran down with blood. That Colonel Gray the Governor, and Captain Hacker, were wounded and taken priſoners, and very many of the garriſon put to the ſword, and the town miſerably plundered.

June 7th, "Letters from Leiceſter informed, that the Committee-men and the Scots there were not killed in cold blood, as was before reported; but that the King's forces killed divers who prayed quarter, and put divers women to the ſword, and other women and children they turned naked into the ſtreets, and many they raviſhed. That they hanged Mr. Reynor and Mr. Sawer in cold blood; and at Nighton, they murthered Mrs. Barlowes, a miniſter's wife, and her children; that in the ſtorming of Leiceſter about 300 were ſlain on both ſides.

Both Houſes of Parliament were now in the utmoſt conſternation; and conference ſucceeded conference. They were attended by divers aldermen and other citizens, who acquainted them, "That the late news of ſtorming of Leiceſter, and the ſad conſequences of it, had made ſo deep an impreſſion on the hearts of many of the citizens and inhabitants in and about the city of London, that they addreſſed themſelves to the

1656, *Edward Billars.*
1657, *Edmund Cradock.*
1658, *Samuel Wandley*, died.
William Franks, choſen.
1659, *John Clay.*
1660, *Danett Abney.*

CHARLES II.

The following information I gathered from the corporation accounts, on the ſeemingly joyful Reſtoration. They expended at the proclaiming Charles the II. King, whoſe father's arms had been torn from the walls of churches, in Leiceſter, with the moſt indignant fury; and whoſe memory they had branded with the vileſt epithets, £11 19 7. And on the day of general thankſgiving for his Majeſty's happy reſtoration to the crown of his anceſtors, which they

the Lord-mayor, to call a Common Council: that they had choſen a committee, and conſidered of a petition; whereby their ſenſe might be repreſented of it to both Houſes: that they had therefore choſen a Committee to deliver this petition; which contains in it as well their ſenſe of this diſaſter, as the cauſes (as they conceive) of it, and their opinions and deſires for the remedies thereof; and how the like miſchiefs may be prevented for the future."

" June 10, One hundred pounds for Sir Robert Pye, as a gratuity from the Parliament, and in recompence of his loſſes at Leiceſter. Sir Thomas Fairfax and the King's forces were within ſix miles of each other. Langdale's regiment were in diſcontent near Leiceſter, becauſe they might not advance Northwards; but the King quieted them with a promiſe that they ſhould march thither within 15 days.—On the 13th, the Parliament forces flighted the garriſon of Cole-orton, and Kirby, and marched away."

" June 14, *(Mercurius Ruſticus informs us)* was that fatal battle at Naeſby-Down in Northamptonſhire, where his Majeſty's army (till then victorious) was now by the uncertainty of warr much worſted, his foot, ordnance and baggage moſt loſt. In this battle Sir Peter Browne, Sir Thomas Dalliſon, Colonel Bawd, Major Wilſon, and Captain Thorold, on his Majeſty's part, were ſlaine. The whole number on both ſides ſlaine was conceived not to exceed 400; but more wounded. Above all, the rebels' cruelty was remarkable in killing upon cold blood at leaſt 100 women, whereof ſome of quality, being commanders wives, and this done under pretence that they were Iriſh-women."

Whitlock ſays " Cromwell coming in with his victorious right wing, they all charged together upon the King, who, unable to endure any longer, got out of the field towards Leiceſter. Prince Rupert, who now too late returned from his improvident eager purſuit, ſeeing the day loſt, accompanied them in their flight, leaving a compleat victory to the Parliamentarians, who had the chace of them for 14 miles, within two miles of Leiceſter. The ſame night after the battle of Naſeby, Sir T. Fairfax blocked up Leiceſter with his horſe, and next day his foot came up to him."

" The

they acknowledged had been deſpoiled by lawleſs tyranny, £9 13 1. They, who had been the foremoſt to rob him of his dignity, and lay his ſceptre at the feet of uſurpers, now preſented him with £300, and expended £19 13 7 to procure the ſum in gold. Three Aldermen and the two Chamberlains who went to preſent it to his Majeſty, were accompanied by their Serjeants at mace, with their ſhining emblems of office attired at the expence of £45 0 0, on which occaſion they expended £17 12 5. What a change, in the paſſing of a few years, was wrought in the minds of the inhabitants of this place! Was it from conviction, or neceſſity? perhaps from both.

In 1660 there was a double return of Members to ſerve in Parliament for this Borough. Thoſe returned were John Grey of London Eſq. and William Hartop of Rotherby. And Sir John Prettyman and Sir William Hartop Knight. There are preſerved in the Bodleian Library, from the Rev. Mr. Cart's account of Parliament men for the Borough, the following curious remarks.

" In

" The triumph of the Royaliſts (ſays *Heath's Chronicle*) was of very ſhort duration. On the 15th of June, the day following the fatal defeat of Naſeby, " Fairfax gave orders for the army and train to march after them the next day, being Sunday, without any more intermiſſion; the purſuit of the victory being of parrallel conſequence with the obtaining it. Theſe orders were chearfully obeyed, though the long march of the foot for many days together, and the vehemency of the battle, might have made them reſt. That night they quartered at Great-Glen, four miles ſhort of Leiceſter; but the horſe came nearer: which ſo much alarmed the nobility and gentry, that fled thither for ſecurity, that they fled thence in great haſte, leaving the Lord Haſtings to defend the place. The King in the mean time, not judging it ſafe to lodge at Leiceſter, departed to Aſhby-de-la-Zouch, where he repoſed himſelf ſome few hours; but ſtayed not there, making all ſpeed he could from Litchfield in the night, and from thence into Wales. The other part of the rout, being the Northern horſe under Sir Marmaduke Langdale, fled incontinently from the battle to Newark, and narrowly eſcaped Sir John Gell, who was advancing with 2000 horſe from Nottingham, to join with the General. The General Fairfax was unreſolved whether he ſhould preſently march to relieve Taunton, ſorely diſtreſſed by the Lord Goring, or undertake Leiceſter. He had received full information of the ſtrength of that army, and what a deſperate forlorn condition Blake the Governor was in; yet knowing that now there was no poſſibility of juncture with the King, of which before the fight Goring had aſſured his Majeſty within few days, he reſolved to reduce Leiceſter firſt. On monday, June 16, the whole army came before the Town, when the General ſent a ſummons to Lord Haſtings to deliver it to the uſe of the Parliament; who very reſolutely refuſed them, and thereupon command was given for a preſent ſtorm. On the 17th. being Tueſday, great ſtore of ladders were brought in, a battery raiſed, and two demy-cannons and a whole culverin taken at Naſeby were placed upon an old work againſt the Newark, being the very ſame guns which the King, not many days before, had uſed againſt the

" In ſeveral hall-books I have met with the following account of Members choſen for the Town.

17 Edward IV. Jan. 12. There were elected Peers Curtes by the commons, and John Wigſon by the Mayor and his brethren. The Parliament began the 17th of January, and was diſſolved the 25th of February following.

22 Edward IV. On Friday before the Epiphany were elected Peers Curtes, Mayor, by the commons, and John Roberts by the Mayor's brethren.

1 Richard III. January 12. Elected John Roberts, Mayor, by the Mayor's brethren, and Peers Curtes by the commonalty. The Parliament began January 13th.

the ſame place. Whereupon the Lord of Loughborough, ſeeing the reſolution of the enemy, ſent a trumpeter out that day with letters, deſiring a parley concerning the ſurrender of the Town; which began that evening, concluded in an agreement; and on Wedneſday morning, June 18, the garriſon marched out, the governor to Aſhby-de-la-Zouch, the ſoldiers and other officers to Litchfield, with ſtaves only in their hands. There were taken in the Town 14 pieces of ordnance, 30 colours, 200 arms, 500 horſe, 50 barrels of powder, and other ammunition proportionable."

Letter of Oliver Cromwell, copied exactly from the original, indorſed thus:

" For the Hon. William Lenthall, Speaker of the Commons' Houſe of Parliament."

" Sir *Haverbrowe, June* 14, 1645.

Being commanded by you to this ſervice, I think myſelf bound to acquaint you with the good hand of God, towards you and us. We marched yeſterday after the King, who went before us from Daventry to Haverbrowe, and quartered about ſix miles from him. This day we marched towards him. He drew out to meet us. Both armies engaged. We, after three hours fight very doubtful, at laſt routed his army; killed and took about 5000; very many officers, but of what quality we yet know not. We took alſo about 200 carriages, all he had, and all his guns, being 12 in number; whereof 2 were demi-culverins, and (I think) the reſt lacers. We purſued the enemy from three miles ſhort of Haverbrowe to nine beyond, even to the ſight of Leiceſter, whither the King fled.

Sir, this is none other but the hand of God, and to him alone belongs the glory, wherein none are to ſhare with him. The General ſerved you with all faithfulneſs and honour; and the beſt commendation I can give of him is, that I dare ſay he attributes all to God, and would rather periſh than aſſume to himſelf, which is an honeſt and a thriving way: yet as much for bravery muſt be given him in this action as to a man. Honeſt men ſerved you faithfully in this action. Sir, they are truſty. I beſeech you, in the name of God, not to diſcourage them. I wiſh this action may beget thankfulneſs and humility in all that are concerned in it. He that ventures his life for the liberty of his country, I wiſh he truſt God for the liberty of his conſcience, and you for the liberty he fights for. In this he reſts, who is your humble ſervant,

OLIVER CROMWELL."

" Sir

4 Henry VII. December 22. Elected Peter Curteys and Roger Wigſon. The Parliament began January 13th.

7 Henry VII. Auguſt 23. Elected Peter Curteys by the commons and Robert Croſt by the Mayor and his brethren. The Parliament began the 17th of October.

19 Henry VII. Die Jovis prox' ante feſtum Nativitat' Domini. Elected Robert Orton by the commons, and William Wygſton Junior by the Mayor and his brethren.

14 Henry VIII. On Tueſday before the Annunciation Elected William Bolte, Mayor, by the commons, and Roger Wygſton by the Mayor's brethren.

I have met with no more Elections of Parliament men till 1 Mariæ.

As to the electors, obſerve, 1. That the government of the town being anciently lodged in 24 perſons, ſtyled "The Mayor and his brethren,"

"Sir John Gell, (ſays *Mercurius Veridicus*) hearing that the King's army was routed, and that Sir Thomas Fairfax had purſued them to Leiceſter, from whence they alſo fled; a party of his and Nottingham's horſe went out on Monday the 16th of June. They gathered up 200 of the King's horſe, and many of their riders; and Sir Thomas Fairfax blocked up Leiceſter with his horſe till his foot came up: which coming to him, hee preſently ſummoned the towne; and the Lord Loughborough (the Governor thereof) refuſing to ſurrender it, preſently hee ſate down before it; upon which the enemy deſired a parley; which being granted, articles of ſurrender were agreed upon, the 18th of June, to the effect following: 1. That the Lord Loughborough ſhould bee conveyed to the garriſon at Aſhby-de-la-Zouch, and have protection for the ſafety of his perſon thither. 2. That all field officers, as colonels, lieutenant-colonels, ſerjeant-majors, captains, and lieutenants of horſe (but not of foot) march away with their particular ſingle horſe and armes. 3. That the reſt of rhe officers and ſouldiers ſhall be conveyed to Litchfield garriſon, with ſtaves in their hands, and no other armes. 4. That all horſe, ſave only thoſe before excepted, ſhall be delivered up to Sir Thomas Fairfax, for the uſe of the Parliament. 5. That all ſuch priſoners as are in Leiceſter ſhall be releaſed and delivered ſafe to Sir Thomas Fairfax. 6. That all cannon, armes, and ammunition (ſave only what armes the officers are to march out with) and all the proviſions, and bagge and baggage, in Leiceſter, to be delivered up to Sir Thomas Fairfax. 7. That the enemy march out the ſaid morning, June 18; that Sir Thomas Fairfax may march in, and take poſſeſſion of the towne, by ten of the clock.—A liſt of what was taken in the town and garriſon of Leiceſter: Five hundred horſe, two thouſand armes, fourteen peeces of ordnance, fifty barrels of powder, many ſkeins of match, all Loughborough's carriages, and much of his treaſure that hee got in plundering of the towne; all their proviſſions and ammunition, bag and baggage, thirty colours, with much other purchaſe, too large to inſiſt on the particulars here.

"June 18, (*Mercurius Ruſticus* informs us) Leiceſter was retaken by the Rebels, upon articles that his Majeſty's ſouldiers within ſhould march away, the officers with horſes and arms, and the common ſouldiers

brethren," theſe ſeparately made choice of one of the members of parliament, and the commonalty of the town choſe the other. This diſtinct choice laſted a good while in K. Henry VIII's reign; but I cannot tell the preciſe time when they began to chooſe jointly, 2. That the commons concerned in the election of their members were all the inhabitants of the town, whether freemen or others, till 4 Henry VII. when the King, by the advice of his council of the dutchy, to prevent the diſorders which frequently happened in the election of Mayor, Burgeſſes of Parliament, and making aſſeſſments, ordered the Mayor and 24 comburgeſſes to call unto them only 48, whom they ſhould judge to be the wiſeſt and graveſt of the commonalty, upon theſe occaſions; and at the next election of annual officers, September 21, 5 Henry VII. the commons at large inſiſting upon their ancient privilege in a tumultuous manner, the King in Parliament that year ordained that the Mayor and his Brethren, ſhould from time to time chooſe 48 of the moſt diſcreet inhabitants of the Town, who, with the Mayor and his Brethren, or more part of them, ſhould make yearly election of all the Mayors and other Officers of the ſaid Borough, and their election ſhould be good, &c.

N. B. The election of Parliament-men is not expreſsly mentioned in this act; nevertheleſs, all elections of them were in fact made agreeable to the tenor of it till the reſtoration of King Charles II. when Sir John Prettyman made intereſt with the commons at large, and, upon a hearing in the Houſe of Commons, was admitted to be duly elected in virtue of their votes; and now the right of election is veſted in the freemen at large, not receiving alms, and in the inhabitants paying ſcot and lot, not being perſons certificated from other places. The number of electors is now ſuppoſed to be about 2000.

As

ſouldiers without which agreement was moſt perfidiouſly broken by the Rebels. The ſame 18th of June a party from Newark, commanded by Captaine Wright, routed 200 of the rebels' horſe at Ryby in Lincolnſhire, ſlew their commander in chief, Lieutenant Colonel Harrington, with ſome others, and took 50 priſoners, with their horſes and armes."

What

As to the perſons elected, it is obſervable that of old they were always inhabitants and members of the Borough: the firſt inſtance which I have met of any country gentleman's election being in the firſt Parliament of Queen Mary, when William Faunt and Thomas Farnham, Eſqrs. were choſen."

1661, *Francis Noble.*

A Mr. Wood received 2 ſhillings being the arrears of rent for the Butt-cloſe, the price of two broad arrows.

1662, *Daniel Deakin.*

A fire at Grantham happened in his time, towards the ſufferers loſs the Corporation contributed £10.

1663, *Thomas Blount*, who died, and *Richard Palmer*, was choſen.

1664, *William Callis.*

James, Duke of York, Lord High Admiral of England, and brother to the King, was entertained at Leiceſter, by the body Corporate at the expence of £16 3 10. "Paid to the Duke of York's Trumpeters, Pages, Coachmen &c. £4 15 0." *Corporation accounts.*

William Callis was an Apothecary, who was honoured with this princely viſit.

1665, *William Alſop.*

Some heavy fines were laid upon two inhabitants for refuſing to ſerve on the company of 48. One was Mr Edward Billars, and the other Mr. William Warbuton, who paid each £33 6 8, as a fine of 100 marks impoſed (as it is called) for the contempt of not ſerving on the 48.

1666 *Edmund Townſend.*

The terrible fire that happened at Loughborough about this time, called forth an unuſual ſum for accidents of that ſort. "Paid towards

What further relates to Leiceſter, is briefly as follows. By other letters it appeared that Sir Thomas Fairfax had begun to ſtorm it, and had made a breach in the works before the ſurrender; and that, about that time, 7000 foot, and 4000 horſe, Scots, had advanced to Leiceſter in favour of the Parliament. *Mercurius Veridicus.*

Fairfax

wards their preſent relief £15 0 0." What they contributed afterwards does not appear.

Here is an article which clearly proves what I have advanced in pages 62 and 64, about Bow-Bridge; that time only has transfered the name of the old Bridge, with *arches*, to that which was more modern and only *one* arch.

"Paid for the repairs of Bow-Bridge £15 12 0," a ſum, more than the original coſt of making the little Bow-Bridge, about which the Corporation had no concern. At the ſame time St. Auſtin's well was repaired at the expence of £2 14 8.

Fairfax, on the 20th of June, left Colonel Needham, Governor of Leiceſter, and advanced from that place and ſat down before Aſhby-de-la-Zouch. But before the news of the retaking of Leiceſter, reached Parliament, June the 18th, both Houſes had given orders for a collection on the following day, "in all the churches and chapels in the Cities of London and Weſtminſter, lines of communication, and bills of mortality, for the uſe of the poor inhabitants of Leiceſter, and for the relief of the ſoldiers that were priſoners, and had been taken there." *Whitlock*, and *Journal of the Commons*.

Jnly the 28. an ordinance was brought in for granting a public benevolence for relief of Leiceſter by the voluntary centributions, beſides 500 mnſquets, £1500 was granted them, out of the eſtates of the delinquents for providing ſaddles, horſes, and piſtols. *Journal of the Commons*.

Augt. the 30. the Committee at Leiceſter was authoriſed "to compound with ſuch Gentlemen of the County. as had aſſiſted or countenanced the king, or his party; the money to be employed for the maintenance of the garriſon, and forces in the town." *Ibid.*

Oct. the 28th, an ordinance of Parliament was finally agreed on by the Lords and Commons, worded thus.

"Whereas it is very well known what miſeries befall the inhabitants of the Town and County of Leiceſter, when the King's army took Leiceſter, by plundering the ſaid inhabitants, not only of their wares in their ſhops, but alſo all their houſhould goods, and their apparel from their backs, both of men, women and children, not ſparing, in that kind infants in their cradles; and by violent courſes and tortures compelled them to diſcover whatſoever they had concealed, or hid, and after all they impriſoned their perſons, to the undoing of the tradeſmen, and the ruin of many of the Country." This ordinance then commands a general collection to be made in the Cities, Towns and Counties in England, in the churches, chapels &c. on the next ſabbath day after the receiving of this ordinance; which ordinance was appointed to be read by the reſpective miniſters during divine ſervice accompanied with an exhortation to aid the relief of the poor ſufferers. The money raiſed thereby was ordered to be paid, firſt to the Magiſtrates in the intereſt of Parliament, in each diſtrict; from them to be delivered to certain Gentlemen, citizens of London, who where appointed Treaſurers for that ſpecial purpoſe. Laſtly the Committee at Leiceſter was empowered to take the accompts of the treaſurers, and aid in the diſtribution, for which they were to be allowed all reaſonable expences.

Feb. 7, 1646. a party of about 80 horſe, and 40 dragoons were ſent from Leiceſter, under the command of a Mr. Mears, to Aſhby, who marched with ſuch expedition and ſecrecy, that they ſurpriſed

This bridge ſince I noticed it in two or three inſtances above, fell in Dec. 1791, owing to the foundation ſtones being removed by the floods. Mr. Cradock of Gumley, who owns the Friars againſt which one of the ends butted, was, I am informed, ſolicitous for its preſervation, on which account he had ſome workmen to inſpect it. But the little peculator appears to have ſhrunk from the late charges brought againſt it, before its repair was undertaken, and choſe to exiſt no longer than it could retain its ſtolen honours.

I wiſh ſome foſtering hand would endeavour to ſave the old Bow-bridge from that deſtruction, which ſeems to await it. In making the drawing for the engraving page 64, I ſaw that its foundation was

the centinels and entered the town; took 100 horſe, ſome rich prizes, and reſcued divers priſoners, and returned to Leiceſter without oppoſition. *Whitlock.*

Feb. 10. Colonel John Needham, who was by Fairfax, left chief commander at Leiceſter, was appointed governor there by both Houſes of Parliament, and Owen Cambridge his Major. *Journal of the Commons.*

March the 1ſt, Leiceſter was ordered to be diſgarriſoned, and the works to be ſlighted, and this order was confirmed by both Houſes of Parliament. *Ibid.*

Sep. 25. 1648. The Leiceſterſhire forces under Col. Hacker, and Col. White, were ordered £3000 out of the eſtates of the delinquents. Among theſe delinquents, or in other words, ſufferers in the Royal cauſe, it appears by a copy of a MS. preſerved in the Harl. Library, publiſhed in the Leiceſterſhire Collections, that the following Gentlemen, in this County, were fined for their loyalty.

Anthony Allen, of Ilſton 108*l* 10*s*. *Henry Barrodale*, of Shepſhead 118*l*. *Thomas Bayley*, of Mithe 325*l* 17*s*. *Sir Thos. Beaumont*, of Gracediew, Knt. 1190*l*. *Joſeph Bent*, of Enderby, 80*l*. *John Buller*, of Bilſton, 124*l* 16*s*. *Sir Hugh Chalvely*, of Leiceſter, 1855*l*. *Richard Dudley*, of Swepſtone, 106*l*. *James Duport*, of Freeby, 50*l*. *Edward Farnham*, of Quorndon, 480*l*. *Joſeph Filks*, of Evington, 70*l*. *William Foſter*, of Knighton, 100*l*. *Thos. Gilbert*, of Ruſhington, 34*l* 10*s*. *Sir Richard Haulford*, of Wiſtow, Bart. 2000*l*. *James Harrington*, of Thornton, 1*l* 13*s* 4*d*. *Sir Henry Haſtings*, of Humberſtone, 72*l*. *Anthony Haſtings*, of the ſame place, 80*l*. *Dr. Edward Hern*, 70*l*. *Juſtinian Iſham*, of Shankton, 1106*l*. Of ſeveral *Gentlemen*, on the ſurrender of Aſhby-de-la-Zouch, into the hands of Governor Needham of Leiceſter, 1200*l*. *Thos. Orme*, of Nailſton, 60*l*. *Sir John Pate*, of Syſton, 1120*l*. *John Rooe*, of Normanton-Turvile, 1280*l*. *John Rollaſton*, of Staunton, 13*l*. *Sir Henry Skepwith*, of Markfield, Knt. and Bart. 1114*l*. *Ralph Skepwith*, of the ſame place, 155*l*. *Joſeph Smith*, of Saltby, Clark, 1000. *Henry Styan*, of Freeby, 26*l* 6*s* 6*d*. *William Stirrup*, of Loughborough, 2*l* 13*s* 4*d*. *William Squire*, of Gaddeſby, 40*l*. *Richard Turpine*, of Knoptoft, 1164*l* 13*s* 4*d*. *Thomas Winford*, of Desford, 24*l*.

Such are the accounts of the ſiege and memorable tranſactions in and about Leiceſter, during the civil wars of the laſt Century. The above relation proves that this place was conſidered of great conſequence, to either parties, and that the ſucceſs attendant on the ſiege, haſtened the deſtruction of the King's army at Naſeby, and in the iſſue, the loſs of his crown and life.

was in a ruinous ſtate.——In all probability it may drop into the Soar. ſhortly, with a paſſenger of leſs importance, but whoſe life may be as valuable as that of a *King Richard*, unleſs it be repaired.

Charles, the 16th year of his reign, reckoning from the death of his father, granted a new charter to Leiceſter, ratifying and confirming thoſe of his predeceſſors. This varies but little from thoſe before recited. The preamble as uſual ſets forth that " the Borough of Leiceſter being an ancient Borough &c." which had many ancient privileges, grants, immunities and preſcriptions, from Kings, and other noble perſonages prior to its being incorporated. It ſays therefore, " We for the better governing of that Town, do grant, ratify and confirm all former acts of our progenitors, that they, the inhabitants of that place, may enjoy *Quot quanta Qualia*, as they had done under the letters patent of our predeceſſor Edward the IVth, under the great Seal of England, or likewiſe what they had under Queen Elizabeth, &c. &c." In ſtrong terms it requires all officers acting in this corporate body to take the oath of ſupremacy.

A tax alſo was paid for the " town lands" to the royal aid £72 13 0.

1667, *William Southwell.*
1668, *Thomas Overing.*
1669, *Andrew Freeman.*

" Received for the fines for the tythes of Danet's Hall, Weſtcotes &c. £190 0 0." *Corporation accounts.*

1670, *William Dean.*

This man was exceedingly unpopular, in his time; on whom the following lines were written, which I have heard from the mouths of ſome old people even at this diſtant day.

" Dean, Dean, and double Dean, the child that is to bear,
May curſe the time, that ever Dean was Mayor;
For cutting of the ſtrike, and ſelling the Town land,
And putting the money into ſquinting Pollard's hand."

Pollard, I have been told, was a Chamberlain and ran away with the money which had been received for the ſale of ſome Corporation

Corporation property. One houſe ſold was "a tenement in Holy Rood-lane," (now Town Hall-lane.)

1671, *Alexander Baker.*
1672, *John Clay.*
1673, *Robert Hartſhorn.*
1674, *Francis Noble.*

Great murmurings prevailed in Leiceſter, in his time, among the freemen of the Borough, againſt the farmers, who rented the land in St. Mary's field. I have inſerted the petition of the former and the reſolves of the Corporation, under the year 1753 to ſhew the opinions of men reſpecting the freeman's privileges, or ancient cuſtoms, and ſome ſubſequent tranſactions relative to the ſaid field.

1675, *George Becket.*
1676, *Edmund Sutton.*

A little article occurs, in his year, for mending St. Anthony's bridge, in Sanvy-gate; one that ſtood there, I apprehend, before the town ditch was filled up.

1677, *William Alſop.*
1678, *Phillip Abney.*
1679, *John Roberts.*
1680, *John Goodhall.*

At the requeſt, and by the complaints of the Common council, and Freemen of the Borough, a law was enacted, in Aug. 1680, in conformity and confirmation, of one made in the reign of James I. that if any perſon being a non Freeman of the Borough, "Shall at any time exerciſe any Trade, Myſtery, Occupation or Craft, within the liberties or precincts thereof, contrary to the ancient uſage and cuſtoms of the ſaid Borough, ſhall, for every offence, forfeit the ſum of 20 ſhillings to the Mayor, Bailiffs and Burgeſſes, to be recovered by action of debt, bill, or plaint, in any of his Majeſtie's Courts Record, to be levied by diſtreſs of the goods of the offenders."

Mem. This law was exhibited to Sir Thos. Raymond, Knight, and Sir Thos. Street, Knight, Juſtices of Aſſiſe; and examined

and

and fully approved by them and allowed. In witneſs whereof the ſaid Juſtices thereto ſet their hands and ſeals, in the preſence of two witneſſes.

1681, *George Bent.*
1682, *William Southwell.*

This year the charter was ſurrendered to the crown and was not reſtored till 1688. Mr. Major, it appears, was Bailiff at the ſurrender; but refuſed to reaſſume his office when it was reſtored.

James II. iſſued a proclamation for reſtoring ancient charters, liberties, rights and franchiſes, when he was threatened with an invaſion, in conſequence all that had been ſurrendered, which were many, were reſtored. "Putting them (it ſays) in the ſame condition, ſtate and plight, they were in at the time of ſuch deeds of ſurrender."

1683, *Andrew Freeman.*
1684, *Thomas Ludlam.*

The Rev. Mr. Newton, Vicar of St. Martin's church, this year preached a ſermon before an amazing concourſe of people, who moſtly attended there to ſee an unfortunate woman at divine ſervice, prior to her being burnt alive for killing her huſband at Ibſtock, in this County.

Theſe accounts occur reſpecting the charter: "Paid charges to Mr. Mayor and Ald. to London, to renew the charter, £20." "Paid Mr. Brown, Town Solicitor, his charges about the charter £180."

JAMES II.

1685, *Walter Hood.*

The Rev. Mr. Andrews, when he left his houſe in Leiceſter, found, among ſome old papers, a bill of fare for a Mayor's feaſt, in 1685; which by ſome may be thought, at the diſtance of a century, rather curious.

" FIRST CORSE.

The Firſt Table in the Hall,
the firſt meſs.

A Coller of Brawn
A diſh of fiſh
Veniſon paſty
Choyne and turkey
Ham and pulletts
Mince pyes
Grand ſallett
Roſt geeſe
Veniſon paſty
Tongues and elders

the ſecond meſs.

Boares head
A diſh of fiſh
Choyne and turkeys
Boyld veniſon
Mince pyes
Grand Sallett
Roſt geeſe
Veniſon paſty
Tongues and elders

the third meſs.

A coller of Brawn
A diſh of fiſh
Choyne and turkeys
Boyld fowle
Grand ſallett
Mince pyes
Roſt Geeſe
Veniſon paſty
Tongues and elders

" SECOND CORSE,

For ye long Table.
the firſt meſs.

A diſh of wild fowl
A diſh of lobbſtars
A diſh of Pulletts
Sturgeon
Collard pigg
Ducks
Ham and tongues
Tarts
Rabbetts
Cuſterd

the ſecond meſs.

Wild fowl
Sturgeon
Collerd Beef
Cold pye
Pulletts
Warden and puffs
Ham and tongues
Rabbetts
Cuſterds

the third meſs.

Pulletts
Wardens and puffs
Collerd pigg
Rabbetts
Ducks
Cuſterds

The Second Table,
the firſt meſs.

A diſh of wild fowl

The Lobbſters

The Second Table in the Hall,
the firſt meſs.
A coller of Brawn
A diſh of fiſh
Choyne and turkey
A veniſon paſty
Roſt geeſe
Grand ſallett
Mince pyes
Ham and pullets
Tongues and elders
the ſecond meſs
A diſh of fiſh
Choyne and turkeys
Veniſon paſty
Roſt geeſe
Grand ſallett
Mince pyes
Tongues and elders
Boyld fowl
The firſt Table in ye Parlor,
the firſt meſs.
A coller of Brawn
A diſh of fiſh
Veniſon paſty
Choyne and turkeys
Grand ſallett
Mince pyes
Roſt geeſe
Ham and pulletts
Tongues and elders
Grand ſallett
A diſh of fiſh
A veniſon paſty

The

Lobbſters
Pulletts
Wardens and puffs
Sturgeon
Ham and tongues
Tarts
Rabbetts
Cuſterds
Collerd pigg
the ſecond meſs.
Ducks
Sturgeon
Pulletts
Wardens and puffs
Rabbetts
Tongues
Tarts
The firſt Table in ye Parlor,
the firſt meſs.
Wild fowl
Lobbſters
Pulletts
Wardens and puffs
Cold pye
Sturgeon
Tarts
Collerd beefe
Rabbetts
Cuſterds
Collerd pigg
The ſecond Table.
Wild fowl
Sturgeon
Pulletts

Wardens

The ſecond Table in ye Parlor.
A coller of Brawn
A diſh of fiſh
Choyne and turkey
Veniſon paſty
Roſt geeſe
Grand ſallett
Ham and pulletts
Mince pyes
A diſh of fiſh
Tongues and elders

The Table in ye Chamber.
A diſh of fiſh
Choyne and turkeys
Veniſon paſty
Ham and pulletts
Grand ſallett
Roſt geeſe
Mince pyes
A diſh of fiſh
Grand ſallett
Veniſon paſty
Tongues and elders."

Wardens and puffs
Ham and tongues
Tarts
Tongues
Ducks
Collerd pigg

The Chamber.
Ducks
Wardens and puffs
Pulletts
Tongues
Collerd pigg
Tarts
Collerd beef
Rabbetts
Cuſterds
Pulletts
Tongues."

Some account of the Caſtle Mill, and the fiſhery of that part of the Soar, may be neceſſary to notice in this hiſtory.

By indenture the 26th of May, the 12th of Charles II. his Majeſty's Attorney General of the Dutchy of Lancaſter ſold, to the Mayor &c. of the Borough of Leiceſter, the Mill under the Caſtle of Leiceſter with the Holmes adjoining, the fiſhing of the Soar from a place called Morehead unto the north Mill, and the appurtances thereunto belonging, reſerving an annual rent to the King of £17, for £610.

21ſt and 22nd of June 1685, the Mayor &c. in conſideration of £130, ſold unto Lawrence Carter, Gent. the Mill &c. and ſeveral

ral fiſhings of the Soar, from a place called Morehead unto a certain bridge called Weſt-bridge, lying over the ſaid river, paying yearly to the King for the ſaid premiſes the reſerved rent of £17 per annum.

And the Mayor &c. as far as by law they be enabled, grant to the ſaid Lawrence Carter free leave and liberty, at his own expence, not only to make ciſterns within the High Croſs, in the Borough of Leiceſter, for the holding and furniſhing with water ſuch pipes as he ſhall lay down in the ſaid *Borough*, *Biſhop's Fee*, *Newark* and *Caſtle* of Leiceſter, or in any of them.

30. Sep. 1748, the deviſees of the Mills &c. named above by the will of Thos. Carter, ſold to Jane Flower for the ſum of £270, the purchaſe made of the Corporation by Mr. Carter in 1685, ſubject to the annual reſerved rent belonging to the Crown.

1686, *Francis Ward.*
1687, *Joſeph Cradock*
1688, *William Bentley.*

WILLIAM III.

1689, *John Bent.*

£160, in his year, was paid for fines for the Tythes of Danet's Hall, Weſtcotes &c.

1690, *John Goodhall.*
1691, *George Becket*, died,
John Wilkins, choſen

The leaden Pipes, found ſo frequently acroſs the Streets, and in the Yards of the Houſes in the South part of the Town, are accounted for by the expenditures of his year. Wilkins was a clock maker. " Paid Mr. Wilkins, Mayor, for 940 yards of new caſt leaden Pipes, £142 4."

In the year 1791, I ſaw two lengths of theſe Pipes, taken up, by the workmen, betwixt the High croſs and the Peacock, when that ſtreet was begun to be paved after the modern faſhion. The water works were where the pump is at the end of the new buildings, below the Peacock.

1692, *John Brookeſby.*
1693, *Edmund Johnſon.*
1694. *Thomas Palmer.*
1695, *John Pares.*
1696, *John Roberts.*
1697, *Henry Pate.*
1698, *John Cracroft.*
1699, *Samuel Woodland.*
1700, *John Abney.*
1701, *Richard Townſhend,* John Pares, Francis Lewin, Ch.(*a*)
1702, *Edmund Cradock.* Thomas Hemſley, John Smally.

ANNE.

1703, *Richard Weſton.* Charles Tufley, John Cooper.
1704, *Thomas Ayre.* John Denſhin, William Goadby.
1705, *Thomas Hartſhorn.* John Pratt, Robert Winfield.
1706, *George Bent.* Matthew Jud, William Hammonds.
1707, *John Ludlam.* Roger Lee, William Topp.

" Rec'd of Mr. Robert Sherwin, purſuant to agreement made at Lutterworth, between the Corporation, and the City of Coventry, concerning Sir Thomas White's gift, for which City he paid, as their agent, £200, and for the intereſt money, £3 5 0, and for a year's rent of Sir Thomas White's land according to agreement."

" *Mem. this* £260 *was repaid to Coventry in* 1719, *by order of the Court of Chancery. E. L.*"

1708, *James Annis.* Edward Palmer, Francis Coltman.
1709, *Edward Hood.* Humphrey Chapman, Thomas Ayre.
1710, *Thomas Bradley.* John Newton, John Ayre.
1711, *Edmund Johnſon.* Thomas Gamble, Thomas Lewin.

Nothing of very public notoriety happened reſpecting the tranſactions of the Corporation, about this time, excepting thoſe reſpecting

(*a*) It may not be a piece of information very neceſſary, for general readers, to know who ſerved the Offices of Chamberlains to the ſucceeding Mayors; but to ſome, as a Corporation book of reference, it may be found uſeful, on that account I inſert them hereafter.

ſpecting the South fields, which the reader will find noticed under the Mayoralty of Mr. Chapman in 1754.

1712, *John Cooper.* Edward Bracebridge, Thomas Ludlam.
1713, *Arthur Noon.* John Guthridge, William Page.
1714, *John Pares.* Richard Whitman, Richard Jordan.

In 1714-15, there happened, at Leiceſter, and perhaps in many other places, a remarkable tempeſt, which has been ever ſince called *Bird's wind,* by reaſon of a Gentleman of that name being then a Candidate for the honour of ſerving in Parliament for this County. Upon the credit of my aged Mother, (now living in a remarkable good ſtate of health) who was born in the firſt year of the preſent century, I give the following: A Mrs. Dickman, going from St. Margaret's Church, was blown from the foot cauſeway into the Town ditch, in Church-gate; and another Lady was ſaved from being blown over the Weſt-bridge, into the River, by two men: Hoops were in general uſe at that time. She informs me further that the leads on ſome of the Churches, were torn up, and that many of the people left the Churches in the middle of divine ſervice, expecting every minute the deſtruction of the Steeples.

GEORGE I.

1715, *Francis Lewin.* Simon Martin, Benjamin Guthridge.
1716, *William Goadby.* Auguſtin Heafford, Thomas Orme.
1717, *Thomas Helmeſley.* Richard Roberts, Robert Reynolds.
1718, *Charles Tuffley,* Henry Smith, John Payne.

"In March 1718-19, on Thurſday night, about 8 o'clock, there was ſeen a Meteor in the aire, which appeared like a ball of fire, and ſeemed to fall to the Earth, being very ſurpriſing to all that ſaw it." *Book of Mayors.*

1719, *John Ludlam.* Samuel Simpſon, Edward Hawkins.
1720, *Robert Winfield,* died,
Edward Hood, ſucceeded. John Earp, Gabriel Newton.

Two or three remarkable murders, and ſome ſingular robberies, were

were committed about this time, which might be remiſſneſs in me not to notice. I am not particular as to the year.

A man who was by trade a taylor, and lived in Thornton-lane, killed his wife in her bed, by running a fine bodkin into her ear; for which he was hanged.

A Mary Hall, who had reared with the tendereſt care, from its infancy, her niece, whoſe parents were dead, cut its throat, and immediately pr eſented herſelf to her father, with her bloody hands and knife, and told him what ſhe had done. She was hanged with a man called Bull Parker, who with an ax mangled his wife's head in bed. The houſe, or rather chamber, where the fact was done, (I remember it ſtanding) ſtood on the ſcite of the back part of Mr. Johnſon's buildings near the water houſe pump. He immediately afterwards, as he declared himſelf, endeavoured to abſcond, but the devil ſtopt him on the Weſt-bridge; from thence he went with the greateſt compoſure to the Town Jail, knocked up the Jailor, and told him what he had done. He was hanged for the murder; but on the road to the Gallows, erected then near where the Infirmary now ſtands, he ſang, inſtead of ſpiritual ſongs, "*A light heart and a thin pair of breeches goes through the world my brave boys.*"

The robberies were done by a tradeſman and his ſervant, who lived in repute.

The Hoſiery buſineſs, by this time, was in a flouriſhing ſtate, in Leiceſter. Carr, the maſter, was in that line of buſineſs and lived in St. Nicholas' pariſh, near the Church. Sutton, the other thief, was either an apprentice to him or a journeyman. During the Winter ſeaſon, Warehouſes of hoſiery goods were frequently broke open, and their contents conveyed away, and every one was at a loſs to diſcover the thief: Watchmen were appointed, dogs placed in Warehouſes, and in others men ſlept, to prevent being plundered; but every ſucceeding Winter depredations of this ſort happened in one part of the Town or another. Goods packed at the Inns for the Carriers were taken away, and conveyed no one knew where.

At

At length, however, a ſingular occurrence brought about a diſcovery, which no vigilance of the Magiſtrates, nor any penetration of the Town's people could effect. A man of the name of Harris, commonly called *Tangle Harris*, whoſe youngeſt ſon lately died in the calling of a chimney-ſweeper, uſed to carry out frames for ſtocking makers, and fetch coals occaſionally from the pits.—— He was a very ſtout man, and going one morning, very early, by St. Mary's Church-yard, on his way to the meadows or lanes, where his poor horſes uſed to feed, he heard ſomebody in the Church-yard, (it was about 2 o'clock in the morning) and he aſked who's there? a perſon there ſaid—Go look! Then rejoined Harris *I'll be d——d if I dont know who you are*, and immediately haſtened towards him to ſeize him by the collar, when a blow was aimed at him by a man with a ſpade, which luckily miſſed him; he then ſprang forward and ſeized him, but another man, he ſaw, ran away. He brought the man he ſecured into the town, and called up a conſtable; and upon examining him they found him to be Sutton, the ſervant of Mr. Carr. Harris concluded that he had diſcovered the robbers, for the taking of whom great rewards had been offered. After making Sutton ſecure they went to Carr's Houſe, which they entered by ſome means, and found Carr in bed with his wife; but his ſhoes were quite warm which ſtood by the bedſide. Upon this they ſecured him. Then all the robberies came out by the confeſſion of Carr himſelf, in hopes of ſaving his life. At the enſuing Aſſize they were both convicted on clear, but circumſtantial evidence; and were both hanged ſoon afterwards. When Sutton was taken they were employed in burying ſome goods ſtolen that night. And it came out upon the trial that Carr uſed to go frequently to London to diſpoſe of the ſtolen goods. He bore a fair character, in Leiceſter. Sutton was a handſome young man, and much pitied.

1721, *William Hammond.* Edward Noon, George Bent.

1722, *Humphrey Chapman.* William Lewin, Joſeph Bunney.

"Paid to ſufferers by fire at Wellingborough £15 0 0."

What will our preſent Gent's think, (who riſe from their beds of down at 12 o'Clock) of thoſe in Nov. 1722, by this copy of a card?

"A BALL
At the CASTLE in LEICESTER,
On the 28 Day of Nov. 1722.
THOS. HODGSON,
MASTER.
No Admittance after
4 o'Clock."

Will they exclaim—*Old faſhioned creatures?*

1723, *Thomas Ayre.* Henry Payne, Richard Goodhall.
1724, *Thomas Lambert.* William Cook, Thomas Baſs(*a*).
"Paid the ſufferers by fire at Coſby £10 0 0; and to thoſe by another at Rearſby £3 0 0."
1725, *Thomas Ludlam,* Thomas Johnſon, William Lee.
1726, *John Guthridge,* John Willows, William Bruſhfield.

GEORGE II.

1727, *William Page.* Joſhua Goodrich, Edmund Ludlam.
1728, *Simon Martin.* John Noon, Edward Bates.
"Paid to the ſufferers by fire at Hinkley £50."

1729,

(*a*) Much violence and party rage prevailed in Leiceſter at this time. The Corporation have preſerved a copy of a letter given by miſtake out of the pocket of W. H. Eſq. to a Gentleman in his company, in Aug. 1723, which is full of invectives againſt the Corporation, for their diſaffection to the then reigning family; charging them, alſo, with chooſing Members from amongſt the lower orders of the people, of the meaneſt character, and abilities, contrary to the expreſs letter of their charters. It charges them conſequently with neglect, in not chooſing thoſe attached to the King, who were of fortune and abilities, to fill the offices of that body corporate with honour.—I can diſcover but little more in it than a wiſh to obtain thoſe places of truſt which others enjoyed, and perhaps filled with integrity. I have given this abridgement of the letter juſt to ſhew the temper of the times.

June 12, 1724, at two o'clock in the afternoon, an awful cloud charged with lightning and inceſſant thunder, diſcharged itſelf over Leiceſter, to the great terror of the inhabitants, who expected nothing leſs than the final diſſolution of all things. It was as dark between the flaſhes of lightning, as night, birds, beaſt and man were equally terrified. The hailſtones, which fell in amazing quantities, meaſured, ſome of them, 6 inches round. The ripening fruits of the earth were moſtly deſtroyed.

1729, *Richard Roberts.* John Cartwright, Robert Winfield.
1730, *Henry Smith.* William Noon, Joſeph Newton.
1731, *Edward Hawkins.* Samuel Miles, Samuel Belton.
1732, *Gabriel Newton.* John Brown, Edmund Johnſon.
1733, *George Bent.* Edward Veſey, Thomas Ludlam.
1734, *Richard Goodhall.* Richard Ogden, Thomas Phipps.
1735, *Samuel Simpſon.* Saul Broadhurſt, William Helmſley.
1736, *William Bruſhfield.* Joſeph Denſhire, William Burſtall.

In his time an ineffectual attempt was made to procure a Navigation. Mr. Mayor was politely aſked by a Gentleman who oppoſed it "Sir do you chooſe to have it thrown out of the Houſe at the firſt or ſecond reading?" a ſtrong implication that a negative was to be put on the buſineſs.

"Paid for the expences of ſoliciting to obtain a Navigation in Parliament £60 10 4."

1737, *William Lee.* Thomas Topp, John Winter.

Altho' I have a full account of the examination reſpecting the treaſonable papers found poſted up at the corners of the ſtreets, at this time, which ſo much attracted the attention of the public, not only in this place but in London and other parts of the kingdom; I forbear giving them in any other words than I did on another occaſion, there being ſeveral of the deſcendants of thoſe living among us who where charged with being concerned in the offence. It happened at the election of Mr. Wright and Mr. Wigley, in oppoſition to Mr. Ruding; three gentlemen of the moſt amiable characters(*a*).

It is happy now to obſerve, in this place, and I hope for the honour

(*a*) The buſineſs of an election about this period, had ſo inflamed ſome of the incendiaries of this Town as to paſte up, againſt the walls of ſeveral public places, treaſonable papers of a very attrocious nature; and the two contending parties ſhewed great zeal in diſcovering the offenders, to be of the contrary intereſt to themſelves. Men, women and children, took an active part in the contention; invectives of the moſt horrid kind were thrown out againſt each other, without the leaſt reſerve. In ſhort, things were carried to ſuch a height, that a Mr. Norton, a lawyer, a man of fair character, with ſome others, were by the Corporation's friends, ſuſpected to be the authors (although they ſent an early account of the treaſonable papers to Government) and were taken before the Magiſtrates of the Borough. When under examination, to the aſtoniſhment of every beholder, Mr. Norton faultered in his reply, became ſpeechleſs, and died without a groan, Feb. 1ſt, 1738.

honour of our nature, it is ſo in many others, that in the more informed circles of life, the fire of party zeal is ſoon extinguiſhed after an election: in that of 1790 it is evidently conſpicuous. It remains only with the lower ranks of mankind to brood over imaginary evils, and to fan thoſe flames ſo deſtructive to ſociety. Our animoſities, of this ſort, originated in ambition for the crown and ſceptre of theſe kingdoms, which to the poor is, or rather ſhould be, a matter of indifference: *they* muſt be the pack horſes of the ſtate, whoever reigns, or whoever ſucceeds at theſe conteſts. Soon, and it is very happy for us, *their* wild and tyrannical inebriation is at an end.

" Paid on account of the treaſonable papers £42 11 6."

1738, *Thomas Baſs.* John Smalley, Edward Harris.

1739, *Edmund Ludlam.* Thomas Martin, William Watton.

It is but juſtice to acknowledge that I have been beholden to the late Mr. Ald. Edmund Ludlam, for many of the above ſelections in this Section, which reſpect the Corporation expences; particularly thoſe marked with inverted comma's.

1740, *Edward Bates,* Samuel Simpſon, Robert Lee.

1741, *John Cartwright.* Robert Hall, Joſs Taylor.

1742, *Samuel Miles*(*a*). Richard Denſhire, William Brabſon.

A wicked ſon of an old Chimney ſweeper, named Condit, lived in Leiceſter about this time, who would, in London, have been called a *reſurrection man;* for he, like thoſe gentry, robbed Churchyards to ſupply the wants of Surgeons. Being one night with a companion,

(*a*) " Aug. 18, 1742, at Leiceſter, about eight in the evening, there happened a violent ſtorm of hail and rain, attended with terrible thunder and lightning, which laſted two hours; pieces of five inches in length, and hail-ſtones two inches in circumference, fell; which killed ſome hundreds of birds, that were found next morning in the gardens within the town. The ſtreets were ſo flooded, that ſcarcely one houſe in ten but had its firſt floor filled with ſuch quantities of water, that the people were obliged to carry it out in pails; and ſome cellars were overflowed ſix feet deep, whereby ſeveral of the inhabitants ſuſtained great damage. Many waggon loads of ice were to be ſeen the Saturday morning following. Thoſe who had been at ſea, and ſaw this ſtorm, compared it to the breaking of water-ſpouts coming down in ſtreams."

Leiceſterſhire Coll.

This happened on a Race day, and I believe the firſt year of the Races being changed from the Abby meadow, to St. Mary's field.

companion, on a treſpaſs of that ſort, whom he had engaged for the firſt time, in the buſineſs, with a promiſe of conſiderable reward; Condit, deſirous of his chum's help without pay, after they had with much difficulty taken a newly buried corpſe from the grave, and put it into a bag, laid it on his companion's ſhoulders, and then gave him a violent nip by the ear. The young man being unaccuſtomed to theſe nocturnal depredations, judged it to be the ſpirit of the corpſe that pinched him, he therefore threw it down and ran away. Condit after this took his prize home in the bag, and laid the dead body between the bed mattreſs and the bed, till the ſurgeon came to examine it next morning. His wife was engaged out that evening, and coming home about 12 o'clock, went to bed with her huſband, but complained of a hard lump in the bed. Condit told her it was a bag of potatoes he had ſtolen, which ſatisfied her. In the morning when the ſurgeon came to examine the body he found it in ſuch a ſtate that it was not fit for his uſe. Condit upon this reſolved that ſomebody ſhould have it. He being of the wicked ſort, next night cut open a wool-pack that lay in the gallowtree-gate, about to be ſent into Yorkſhire, took out ſome wool, and ſubſtituted the dead man for the wool, and ſewed up the pack again. In conſequence it was carried into Yorkſhire. This ſtory Condit told himſelf ſome little time before he died, which was about the period we are ſpeaking of.

1743, *Samuel Belton.* Thomas Chapman, Joſeph Hall.
1744, *Thomas Ayre.* James Siſmey, John Hammond.
1745, *Joſeph Denſhire.* William Higginſon. Robert Belton.

The rebellion in the year 1745, occaſioned many and frequent alarms in this place. When prince Charles' little army (alias the rebels) were at Derby, this town was thinned of more than half its inhabitants. Warm and threatening partizans, in the cauſe of their king, while Charles was at a diſtance, appeared in arms at mock fights in the caſtle-yard; but when his army arrived at Derby, they deſerted the parade, and ſneaked away with the aged, the women, and the children, to ſeek aſylums under the humble roofs of neigh-

bouring villages. Thoſe who were left at home were ſome of them buſied in depoſiting their valuables in the earth, and others in roaſting and boiling to accomodate the unwelcome gueſts on their hourly expected arrival; ſcouting parties, meſſengers on foot and on horſeback, were ſent to bring intelligence of their approach. Sometimes they were at Loughborough, ſometimes at Rodely, and ſometimes near Leiceſter. Frightened ſervants, who were kept at home with ſome maſters of families, were in convulſions at the idea of being defiled and murdered by the rebel army. The Mayor was ſurrounded by a few of his brethren (who had reſolution to ſtay at home) and his ſervants, all in continual fear; while ſome, who favoured the old cauſe, prayed fervently, in ſecret, for the ſucceſs of the prince's arms. In this ſtate were things at Leiceſter, when news was brought that the little army of the Pretender was haſtening back towards Scotland, and the duke of Cumberland in forwardneſs to attack him, which he did, ſoon after, at Culloden with ſucceſs; but alas! ſome ſay, without mercy.

1746, *Thomas Topp*, Nicholas Throſby, John Weſtley.
1747, *John Smalley*. Samuel Brown, Samuel Oliver.
1748, *Robert Hall*. Henry Guthridge, Richard Beal.

A bill in his year, was framed for eſtabliſhing a regular watch, cleanſing the ſtreets, maintaining the wells and pumps, in the ſtreets, and lighting the town with lamps. A copy of it I have; but as it did not paſs into an act it is needleſs to recite it.

1749, *Thomas Phipps*. Anthony Ward, John Wigley.

A little time before, and in his year, efforts were made to reſtrain non freemen from enjoying the privileges of exerciſing their trades &c. in Leiceſter, except on market and fair days, according to former uſage. One Green a watch maker made no little ſtand againſt the corporation laws and charters in this particular. I have not leſs than 60 Quarto pages in M S. of the tranſactions. The note below contains ſufficient on that head(*a*). It ſhews alſo that the charter

(*a*) One Stubbs, a Glover, reſiſting the By-law of the corporation, which was made to exclude non freemen

ter I have given by king John, page 36, is the firſt Charter known to be granted to the Burgeſſes of Leiceſter.

1750, *Thomas Martin.* Clement Streeton, Joſeph Chambers.

On the laſt day of Sept. 1750, a ſevere ſhock of an earthquake was felt in Leiceſter, and its vicinity, which created a general alarm. It happened about half an hour after 12 at noon, and was perceived, generally, in the county, in moſt parts of Lincolnſhire, and part of Northamptonſhire. The houſes tottered, plates and glaſſes fell from the ſhelves; and ſlates, tiles, and ſome chimnies fell from the houſes; but happily no greater miſchief was done. In ſome churches, where ſervice was not over, (it being on a Sunday) the people ran from their devotions in the utmoſt conſternation.—

freemen of the Borough from exerciſing trades within their juriſdiction, occaſioned a caſe to be drawn up and laid before Sir John Strange, and Sir Dudley Rider, in the year 1749.

The caſe ſtated that it appeared by the firſt charter extant, that of King John, in the firſt year of his reign, given in page 36, that the Burgeſſes of Leiceſter had certain privileges granted them, particularly that of being free from tolls throughout England. It ſtated alſo that time immemorial, non freemen were not ſuffered to exerciſe their trades and callings within the liberties of the Borough, excepting on market and fair days. Further that the Charter of Elizabeth, granted in the 41ſt year of her reign, empowered the corporation to make By-laws for the regulating the ancient uſage of the town, with reſpect to trades, offices and buſineſs, ordaining ſuch penalties and fines, in caſes of non compliance, as they ſhould think fit, ſo as they were not made contrary to the law of the land.

The Mayor and Aldermen in Sep. 1681, made a By-law, in conſideration of ſome efforts being made, by non freemen, to exerciſe their trades within the limits of the Borough, contrary to ancient uſage, reciting that the freemen were liable to ſerve many town offices, which ſubjected them to loſs of time and expences, for which they ought to have ſome encouragement and privileges above thoſe of ſtrangers. It further recited that at a Common Hall, holden in the Borough, in the 8th year of king James I. it was ordained that every perſon ſelling articles openly within the limits of the Borough, non freemen, excepting on market and fair days, ſhould forfeit 40s for every month, wherein he ſhould offend. But notwithſtanding perſons had notoriouſly offended againſt the ſaid By-law and ancient cuſtoms. It was therefore enacted by a By-law at the requeſt of the Common Council, that if any perſon or perſons, not being freemen, ſhould at any time exerciſe their trades and callings, contrary to ancient uſage, ſhould forfeit 20s to the Mayor, Bailiffs &c. of the Borough, " to be recovered by action of debt, Bill, or Plaint, in any of his Majeſty's Courts of Record, or to be levyed by diſtreſs." The ſaid By-law was approved and allowed by the Judges of aſſize next held at Leiceſter after the making thereof.

After this it appears that no non freeman ever attempted to offend againſt this By-law, till the year 1730, when Stubbs above mentioned refuſed to buy his freedom, and traded in defiance of the By-law. The corporation therefore commenced an action of debt in the year 1730, upon the By-law of 1681. The Cauſe being at iſſue upon *Nil debet*, the ſame was tried. It coming out upon evidence that foreign-

ers

tion.—The ſhock was attended with a rumbling noiſe.——A certain lawyer, in Leiceſter, who had employed his two clerks in his office, as on another day, was ſo terrified with the ſhock, and the warm reproofs of his mother, for paying no deference to the Lord's day, that he exclaimed, " *Yes, yes, for God's ſake give over! For God's ſake give over!*—and remained for a time ſtung with the impropriety of his conduct.

1751, *Samuel Simpſon.* Joſeph Treen, John Thornton.
1752, *Richard Denſhire.* Richard Roberts, John Miles.
1753, *Thomas Chapman.* Hamlet Clark, John Fiſher.

At the aſſizes for this county, which ended the 18th of Auguſt, 1753, the Rev. Mr. Hubbard received ſentence of death, for robbing

ers and non freemen were always permitted to uſe and exerciſe their trades and occupations, within the ſaid Borongh, as well as the freemen, thereof, upon market days and fair days, the plaintiffs were nonſuited.

The queſtion to Sir Dudley Rider, and Sir John Strange, in 1749, was thus, " If the Corporation ſhould Commence an action upon the caſe, upon the ſaid cuſtoms, with an exception of fair days, and market days (as the cuſtom truly is) againſt any perſon not being free of the ſaid Borough, for uſing aud exerciſing any trade within the ſaid Borough, on thoſe days, that are neither market days or fair days there; if the def't. ſhould give the plt's notice to produce at the tryal of the cauſe, the ſaid By-laws, w'ch are founded on a cuſtom, without any exception, of market days and fair days, and the By-laws ſhould be produced, what effect would the By-laws (they being Corporate Acts) have upon the tryal, they ſhewing a different cuſtom than that which will be declared upon—Will that evidence nonſuit the pl'ts, although the cuſtom declared upon ſhould be fully proved beyond any doubt, to be as laid in the declaration; and is it adviſable, upon the circumſtances of this caſe, for the Corporation to commence and try ſuch action for ſupporting the ſaid Cuſtom?"

" I am of opinion that the abovementioned miſtake of the cuſtom in the introduction to the By-laws will not be concluſive to the Corporation, but that they may be allowed to prove the cuſtom by antient Witneſſes, and if they do prove it, they ought not to be nonſuited, on account of the deſcription in the By-law, which is only more extenſive than the true cuſtom, but really contains nothing that is contradictory to the cuſtom. I think therefore it is adviſable for the Corporation to try the action propoſed for the ſupporting their Cuſtom.

J. STRANGE,
10. Ap'l, 1749."

" The production of the By-law, tho' it would be of ſome weight, yet it is but evidence, I think not ſufficient to overturn a cuſtom fully proved by other evidence, therefore it may be adviſable for the Corporation to commence a new action on the foot of the cuſtom, as it can be clearly proved by Witneſſes.

D. RYDER,
29. Ap'l, 1749."

I know not in what manner the trial ended if there were any; but ſome time afterwards Green, the watch maker, and others ſet the By-laws at defiance, and from that time to this the Borough has been, and is open to all deſcriptions of men excepting publicans.

bing Mrs. Burbage, of Melton. On the day the robbery was committed he dined with Mrs. Burbage at Oakam, whom he followed at a diſtance ſome miles towards home; he then diſguiſing himſelf with a cloak and viſor, rode up to her, and ordered her to deliver her money, which ſhe complying with he rode off; but he was detected by Mrs. Burbage having a knowledge of his horſe. In conſideration of his function he was tranſported.

A violent conteſt, fraught with miſchief, happened at this time for members to ſerve in parliament for Leiceſter, called Mitford's oppoſition; but as I purpoſely avoid entering into the particulars of elections, I will only notice that the attempt to encloſe the ſouth fields was a pretence, at leaſt, for the deſtruction of private as well as public property that enſued.

The freemen of Leiceſter have a claim, perhaps from ſomething more than uſage, of a certain portion of the year to turn their cattle in the ſouth fields. Above I have given ſome account of the purchaſe of the fields; and hence it may be neceſſary to relate ſome of the proceedings of the corporation reſpecting them, which are abridged as follow.

" 1601, 20. Nov. 44 Eliz. It was agreed that the Cowpaſture ſhould be let to Michael Thornton, for making the ſame ſounder for cattle, until a fortnight before the annunciation of the Virgin Mary: and he to pay for the ſame before St. Andrew's day next 40s."

" 1604, 12th of Oct. 2 James, it was agreed that before the letting of the Graunge, there ſhould be an enlargement made to the cowpaſture."

1624, A petition from the Freemen.

" To the Right Worſhipful the Mayor of Leiceſter, and the Commiſſioners of the ſame, and the reſt of the Company."

The petition ſets forth " That it would be a convenient thing to the corporation to compaſs and enlarge the high town paſture, from Sutton's Cloſe to ——— Bridge; to which purpoſe divers inhabitants had given their benevolence, when an almoſt general con-

ſent had been obtained. Now for effecting the former conſent, with your worſhip's good favour, we your poor petitioners, humbly intreat your aſſiſtance herein, that the Cowpaſture may be ſo enlarged for the general benefit of the poorer ſort, which, *in all men's judgment is lawfull*, thus ſubmitting ourſelves to your godly conſideration &c."

Under, ſigned by ſeveral freemen.

"9th of June, 1624," This petition was taken into conſideration which for divers reaſons, not ſpecified, it could not be granted. But it was reſolved, "That we think fit your ancient privileges of common in the ſouth fields *ſhall be maintained*(*a*).

1686. "It was ordered that if any Steers or Bullocks were put into the high town paſture, they ſhould be impounded."

"Common Hall Sep. 20, 1708. Whereas at a Common Hall, in July laſt, it was agreed, that for the improvement of the eſtate of the Corporation. and the benefit of the freemen, to encloſe the ſouth fields, lying in the pariſh of St. Mary. It was therefore reſolved that the ſaid field, at the expiration of the leaſes, ſhall be laid down to paſturage inſtead of tillage, and to have one general incloſure."

"29. March 1710. Ordered that the ſouth fields ſhould be let in ſix farms."

"In 1731, at the expiration of the laſt leaſes, it was then propoſed to lay down the ſaid fields to graſs; this was rejected and the fields were let in farms again."

"In

(*a*) Another petition from a body of freemen was addreſſed to the Mayor &c. in 1675, ſetting forth that their ancient privileges were partly deſtroyed or taken away by the improper conduct of the farmers who rented the town land. It ſet forth that the farmers deſtroyed their privileges by driving their cattle thro' the drift, inſtead of the high road. That they alſo, againſt ancient uſage, watered and laired their cattle in a place called *Bull nooke*, to the damaging the freemen's paſture. That the farmers by ancient uſage ſhould keep a *bull* and *boar* for public uſe; but they either kept none at all, or ſuch that was not ſerviceable. That the farmers acted contrary to ancient uſage by putting their ſheep into the meadows ſoon after Lammas, inſtead of Michaelmas day. "That your petitioners have been diſcharged from putting their horſes &c. into St. Mary's fields, according to ancient uſage." It concludes with expreſſing that the petitioners hope that their grievances may be redreſſed; and that they may not be enforced to uſe other means, in a legal way, to procure their rights.

" In 1751, at a Common Hall, 26th of July, it was ordered that the fields ſhould be laid down for graſs."

" In 1752, Jan. 8, ordered at that Hall, a ſurvey to be taken of the fields, that it may appear what roads are neceſſary to be made."

" 19th of March, the ſame year, at a Common Hall, that the ſouth fields be not let out in farms as uſual, and that Mr. Mayor. and others be appointed to purchaſe the tythes of Mr. Conyers. Ordered, at the ſame time, that when the fields are laid down as graſs grounds, that the commoners may turn in their cattle to their uſual ſtint, the 1ſt of Sep. Ordered that no part of the fields be ploughed up after Mich's. 1755.

" 22 of Dec. the leaſes were ſigned and ſealed to Mr. Ayre, Mr. Phipps and Mr. Oliver, for 21 years."

" At a Common Hall, 2 Sep. 1754. Agreed to accept the purchaſe of the tythe and glebe lands, in conſideration of £540. And an acre which Mr. Phipps offered for £25. Ordered that Eardley Wilmot Eſq. be applied to prepare the form of an order *for the excluding ſuch of the freemen as this Corporation ſhall think proper from turning any cows, horſes. or other cattle, into the ſouth fields and meadows*(a)."

" At a Common Hall July 9th 1755. Ordered that Mr. Ald. Phipps, have leave to lay out £50, in buildings, in the grange yard."

" At a Common Hall, 27 Aug. 1755. Ordered that Mr. Mayor borrow the money to pay for the glebe and tythe land."

" At a Common Hall, 10 Sep. 1755. Ordered that £41 be paid to Mr. Ayre, £247 be paid to Mr. Phipps, and £223 be paid to Mr. Oliver, for the damages by them reſpectively ſuſtained, as tenants

(a) This was an indiſcreet, and an inconſiderate reſolve, after long uſage; big with miſchievous conſequences. It prompted men to acts of violence, and attempts of that ſort ever will be the occaſion of much evil in this place. To this may be juſtly attributed all the horrors attendant on that baneful election of 1754. It ought to be remembered that a ſmall majority carried this corporate unpopular reſolution. In the minority were many diſintereſted men; one of which was a gentleman of penetration and diſcretion, and a leader in all popular meaſures, the preſent Recorder is honoured by being his deſcendant.

tenants to the Corporation. This was after the people had burnt the fences(*a*)."

"In 1756, a Committee was appointed to direct what fences were neceſſary, in future, for the fields."

Sometime after this a draft was prepared for new leaſes to be made; and alſo an order to prevent riots and damages in the fields, and to puniſh rioters.

A difference ſoon after aroſe between ſome of the Corporation, (for many of them were averſe to the unpopular meaſures) and Mr. Phipps, and Mr. Oliver, two gentlemen concerned in the leaſes, who were directly charged with giving inſtructions about the drawing of the new leaſes contrary to the inſtructions of the Hall(*b*). Theſe two gentlemen were exceedingly unpopular at this time, being conſidered as principal promoters of incloſing the fields; which, detached from every other conſideration, might have benefited the freemen better than in an arable ſtate.

A caſe was laid before Mr. Caldecott, an eminent counſel, reſpecting the riots in the fields &c. The queries and his anſwer are in the note below(*c*).

Heads

(*a*) The fires in St. Mary's fields were burning night and day for a fortnight, to deſtroy the ſtumps and rails. It was a blaze for birthright privileges, exiſting in ſomething more than in the will of ſome few intereſted individuals. Here their rage did not end, for the 8th of April 1755 in the night (mobs cannot diſcriminate) they deſtroyed almoſt all the windows of every individual corporation man. The next day the town had rather the appearance of general deſolation, many houſes having neither doors, windows or window-ſhutters left.

(*b*) An Hall book has this remark, "It is apprehended that this is the firſt inſtance of the Tenants dictating the terms of their Leaſes."

(*c*) *Query.* "Whether as the Corp'n did by the preſent Leaſes reſerve a Liberty for the freemen to turn into the fields ſuch cattle at ſuch times as in the Leaſes mentioned, they can juſtify deſtroying the fences &c. Is it adviſable for the Leſſees to ſurrender the preſent Leaſes and to have new ones without a reſervation for the freemen to turn any cattle into the fields &c?"

Anſwer. "Suppoſing theſe fields were the proper freehold and inheritance of the Mayor, Bailiffs and Burgeſſes, I dont think the freemen could ſtrictly, juſtify under the liberty given to them by the preſent Leaſes, the deſtroying any old fences, for their liberty was only to depaſture, and ſuch liberty reſerved to them was only a conſiſtent right with the Leſſees of the Corp'n, who equally claimed under the Corporation; but then, it ſeems to me that by the preſent Leaſes the liberty to turn in by the freemen is a Right allowed them by the Mayor, Bailiffs and Burgeſſes, to depaſture, and if any fences were ſince made

Heads of Mr. Phipp's leaſe 1756, which more immediately concerned the freemen.

He takes Hall's &c. and the gallow field, 4 acres of the farmers lays, the upper meadow, and ſuch tythes as belong to the Corporation. Among the exceptions, it ſays, always reſerving to the Mayor, Bailiffs and Burgeſſes the liberty of *permitting* ſuch and ſo many freemen reſiding within the ſaid Borough, as the ſaid Mayor, Bailiffs and Burgeſſes ſhall think fit, to turn each of them two mares or geldings, and two cows each, into the meadows, and farmers' lays, as ſoon as the hay can conveniently be conveyed away; there to continue till the 25th of March. And alſo to permit ſuch and ſo many freemen reſiding within the ſaid Borough, as they ſhall think fit, to turn ſuch of them their cattle into the ſaid gallow field &c. The other parts of the leaſes are not neceſſary to be recited. This ſhews the attempt then made. and the deſire ſome

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made by the preſent Leſſees, whereby ſuch rights of the freemen have been interrupted, I think they may remove ſuch obſtructions in order to enjoy in their rightful manner their paſturage, and therefore in this Caſe I ſhould think it moſt adviſable for the Corporation and the Leſſees, that the Leſſees ſhould ſurrender up their preſent Leaſes to the Mayor, Bailiffs and Burgeſſes, and afterwards to have new Leaſes granted without reſerving to the freemen themſelves any right whatſoever, but to have the liberty reſerved to the Mayor, Bailiffs and Burgeſſes, in manner as is mentioned in the preceeding Draught, and after ſuch new Leaſes granted, I think the Leſſees reſpectively may bring actions againſt ſuch freemen as ſhall put in Cattle without the permiſſion of the Mayor, Bailiffs and Burgeſſes."

Q. "On Mr. Alderman Phipps ſurrendering the preſent Leaſe, he has, of part of the South fields, it is intended he ſhould have a Leaſe thereof according to the Draft hereunto annexed, but with ſuch alterations as you ſhall think proper to make therein for the excluding of any freeman from turning any cattle therein between old Candlemas day and old Michaelmas day, except only ſuch freemen as the Mayor for the time being ſhall permit to turn any cattle therein, to the end ſuch ſteps may be taken as you ſhall adviſe againſt any freeman that ſhall turn any cattle into the ſaid fields, contrary to the true intent and meaning of ſuch intended Leaſe?"

Anſ. "I think the Leſſees ſh'd under their hands and ſeals by Deed ſurrender their old Leaſes to the Corporation and all their right Title and Intereſt therein and thereto, and I think in this caſe an Indenture between Leſſee of the firſt part and Corp'n of the ſecond would be the propereſt inſtrum't, becauſe the Corporation muſt accept ſuch ſurrender, w'ch can't ſo properly be done as under their Common Seal, w'ch I think ſhould be put to the ſaid Indenture. And I think it may be proper to have a previous order of a Common Hall for accepting ſuch ſurrender of the Leſſees; and after ſuch ſurrenders are accepted, the old Leaſes may be deſtroyed, but there is no neceſſity to deſtroy the old Leaſes in ſuch caſe before the new ones are granted, but the ſurrender and acceptance muſt be firſt executed before the new Leaſes are granted.

THO. CALDECOTT,

Leiceſter, Aug. 14. 1756."

men had, to wreſt thoſe ſacred privileges from the freemen, which had been enjoyed by their forefathers, ever ſince the firſt year of the ſouth fields being in the poſſeſſion of the Corporation.

It would be well if men, intruſted with town offices of this ſort, would conſider their relative ſituation. Corporations were firſt and originally eſtabliſhed for the mutual benefit of every individual member of that community over which they preſide. Their charters, property and power, were given them for the proſperity and peace of the inhabitants of large and populous towns: the intereſt of thoſe that are appointed to govern, and the governed, was equally the object of royal munificence and noble patronage, at the inſtitution of Bodies politic. Individual intereſt ſhould be baniſhed from the breaſts of thoſe, who muſt be conſidered only as *truſtees* for the preſent generation, and to hand down, to future ones, inviolate, thoſe liberties and privileges given for the mutual benefit of themſelves, and fellow burgeſſes', out of power.

The above abſtracts, and ſucceeding remarks, are publiſhed with an intention only of being ſerviceable to thoſe riſing into power. They may ſerve as a caution againſt the proſecution of unpopular public meaſures, which often ſubject men, in power, to contempt and hatred. Thoſe members of the corporation who are of the 48, are the repreſentatives of the inhabitants of Leiceſter, added to the original corporate Body, from the bulk of the people, to prevent clamorous and riotous aſſemblies, at the choice of annual officers. In the charters recited above, the reader has ſeen in what light they are conſidered; and he may alſo ſee a faint reſemblance, I think, in the now ſtate of the corporation, of the conſtitution of his country, the king, lords and commons.

1754, *William Lee.* William Orton, John Cartwright.
1755, *James Siſmey.* William Clark, Thomas Streeton.

Two remarkable occurrences happened in Leiceſter about this time (I am not certain as to the year,) which ſhould make people cautious of haſtening their apparently departed friends from the bed of death to the grave.

Elizabeth Carter, who lived in St. Margaret's pariſh, was placed in

in her coffin for interment; her friends and neighbours were in her houſe attending to accompany her to the grave, when to their great ſurpriſe ſhe aroſe from her ſuppoſed ſleep of death. She lived many years afterwards. This fact is teſtified by the living, ſhe was a ſchool-fellow of one who related this to me, and they have often converſed together on the ſubject.

Ald. Thomas Newton, whoſe ſon died lately in the Thornton-lane, Leiceſter, was in a ſimilar ſleep: his friends were bidden to the funeral; but he aroſe before the day fixed for his burial. He lived ſome time after.

It is to be feared that ſome of the human race have experienced ſuch a change, in the hopeleſs priſon of a diſmal grave, and languiſhed there in horror, diſtraction and deſpair.

1756. *Edmund Ludlam.* John Gamble, Cornelius Norton.

The 14th of June this year, in Leiceſter, between the hours of eight and ten, there was a remarkable heavy ſhower of rain, attended with inceſſant claps of thunder, and very alarming lightning, which was followed with a heavy hail-ſtorm, during which was ſeen a ball of fire, which divided into particles, and vaniſhed without doing any damage.

1757, *Joſeph Hall.* William Holmes, John Cox Brown.

Wheat was ſold in Leiceſter market, in 1757, for 9*s* per ſtrike; and in conſequence of the high price of corn, the people grew tumultuous. In Leiceſter they forced the corn from the inns into the market, but offered no injury to the perſon of any one. At Mountſorrel a mob deſtroyed a bolting-mill, from whence they went to Sileby, and Loughborough, and likewiſe deſtroyed the bolting-mills in thoſe places. In other parts of the country diſturbances of the like kind happened.

1758, *Robert Belton.* Samuel Jordan, John Ward.

1759, *Nicholas Throſby.* Thomas Aſtle, Benjamin Sutton.

England, in his year, was alarmed by a threatened invaſion from France.

At a Common Hall held the 23d of Nov. 1759, the Mayor was empowered to ſubſcribe 100 pounds for the laudable purpoſe of aiding

aiding government, during the war, by giving large bounties for able bodied men to ſerve in the fleets and armies. A ſpirited addreſs was printed to the friends of government, on this occaſion, to urge them to join the corporation in this laudable meaſure, which was followed by a large ſubſcription from individuals(*a*).

The Mayor was alſo empowered to give a grand Banquet, at the 'Change, to the Duke of Grafton, and the officers of the Suffolk militia. The Suffolk militia then lay at Leiceſter, officered by the firſt characters in that county. It was then conſidered the moſt elegant and coſtly treat ever given by the corporation, and one the moſt inebriating. Mr. Mayor, at night was aſſiſted by the duke down ſtairs; and the duke ſoon after was aſſiſted to his carriage by the town ſervants: there not being a ſoul left in the room capable of affording help to enfeebled limbs—Field officers and Aldermen, Captains and Common council, were perfectly at reſt; all were leveled by the mighty power of wine.

GEORGE III.

1760, *John Weſtley.* James Cooper, William Maſon.

In his year a moſt ſhocking murder was committed on the body of an old ſoldier, a pedlar, by a young man and his wife, of the name of Cherry, who, the proceeding night, ſlept in the ſame room at a common lodging houſe in Church-gate, oppoſite to the Butt Cloſe. It appeared that they from neceſſity, by their own account, intended only to rob him; but the old man, being ſtrong and powerfull, overcame the young man, who, to diſengage himſelf, murdered him with two of the poor pedlar's own knives, the women aſſiſting, they ſtabbed him to the heart. They were hanged together near the place where they committed the murder. The woman had been

(*a*) In the ſpring of the year 1756, Count Beuville, with about 30 French Officers, who were taken priſoners prior to the declaration of war, were ſent to Leiceſter, where they remained till they were exchanged in Oct. 1757. During their ſtay at Leiceſter, it was computed that they expended £9000. ſome of them being gentlemen of the firſt rank in France. For their genteel behaviour they were much eſteemed by the inhabitants of Leiceſter, and they mingled in all polite aſſemblies, with, as it were, a native agreeableneſs.

been well educated, and perſiſted in her innocence. When they were pinioning her arms in the gaol, the morning of the execution, ſhe fainted away; but recovering, ſhe with fortitude and ſeemingly innocent compoſure ſaid "My God died to appeaſe a multitude, and why ſhould I repine."

1761, *Samuel Brown.* John Cooper, John Poynton.
1762, *Samuel Oliver.* Tyringham Palmer, William Stephens.
1763, *Henry Guthridge.* James Bates, Robert Peach-
1764, *Richard Beal.* John Pocklington, Samuel Woodford.
1765, *Joſeph Chambers,* Richard Robert Drake, John Gregory.

A fire, which threatened much miſchief, broke out at ſome ſtables adjoining the Dolphin Inn, and near a grocer's, Jan. 16, 1766. which providentially was got under before it reached either of the two dangerous premiſes. Capt. Lewis, and his dragoons, were exceedingly uſeful on the occaſion.

1766, *John Fiſher.* John Coleman, Joſeph Johnſon.

In the corporation charter of king James, it is expreſſed that on Monday after Martinmas-day the newly elected Mayor ſhall attend at the great Hall of the Caſtle, and take an oath "before our Seneſcall" that he ſhall perform well and faithfully all and evey ancient cuſtom, juriſdiction, privilege and preeminence of the duchy of Lancaſter, within the Borough of Leiceſter, being a part or parcel of the ancient duchy of Lancaſter, according to the beſt of his knowledge. It was a cuſtom before Mr. Fiſher's time, to ſlope the great mace when Mr. Mayor and his attendants arrived at a certain place within the precincts of the Caſtle, which was omitted when *he* went to take the oath: in conſequence the conſtable of the caſtle, or his deputy, refuſed him admittance. This was at the eve of an election, which was conducted with much party heat. However ſince this happened Mr. Mayor goes in private to the caſtle, without ceremony, to comply with the requiſition of the charter(*a*).

Tt Pro-

(*a*) This charter of James empowers the governors of the town to puniſh *pimps, common whores.* and *ſcolds.* I believe there is now a *cuck-ſtool,* as it is called, kept ſomewhere about the town hall premiſes, to cool vociferous ladies, or if it pleaſe better, thoſe warm in temper. To the credit of the nimble-tongued-fair, it ſhould be ſaid, that it is now a long time ſince it was uſed. Huſbands, perhaps, give but little provocation for the exerciſe of that admirable defence of woman, a *delectable* utterance.

Proviſions having ariſen to a great price, by foreſtalling, and other evil practices, the common people, at Hinckley, in this county, aſſembled in a riotous manner, and upon the road leading thither they ſtopped ſome waggon-loads of cheeſe, and diſtributed their contents among the mob, to the amount of £87.—And in about three weeks after, being the laſt day of Sep. 1766, a great riot, on the ſame account, happened in Leiceſter. Mr. Pridmore, of Market-Harbro' lodged a conſiderable quantity of cheeſe at a warehouſe at the Blue-bell inn, contrary to the advice of the Magiſtrates, and was imprudent enough to take it away before the fair; accordingly a waggon-load was ſent thence about one o'clock;—but the poor, upon an alarm being given, ſtopped the waggon and diſtributed the cheeſe among the mob before the Magiſtrates could be acquainted with the riot. The mob, by this time, was become extremely numerous, and proceeded to Mr. Pridmore's warehouſe, which they broke open, and began to give away the cheeſe before the juſtices arrived. The whole town was now alarmed, the Magiſtrates expoſtulated with the incenſed multitude, but to little effect. At length the drum was ordered to beat to arms, (the militia being in Leiceſter) and the ſoldiers were ſoon in order upon the ſpot, headed by Mr. Mortimer, one of their officers. With their bayonets fixed, they with difficulty cleared the ſtreets; but notwithſtanding this, and the riot act being read, the people refuſed to diſperſe, and behaved unruly at ſome little diſtance from the ſoldiers. Then the Magiſtrates ordered all the cheeſe that was in the market-place to be removed to the 'Change, under a ſtrong guard, and promiſed that the cheeſe ſhould be ſold at three-pence per *lb*. Upon this the mob emptied, in a ſhort time, all the warehouſes, and inns, where it had been lodged for ſale, and huckſter's ſhops alſo of all the cheeſe, and took it to the 'Change. Towards the evening, the ſoldiers being diſmiſſed, the mob collected again and grew more tumultuous than before, and ſearched every waggon which came into Leiceſter that night. They were now no leſs in number than 4000, and ſeized almoſt every thing in their way; the drums were again ordered to beat to arms, and there ſeemed confuſion on the face of

every

every one: here a lawleſs, mob, joined by numbers from the neighbouring villages, and there the ſoldiers running with their arms to join the main body, who were marching towards the waggons. Peaceable people, with the magiſtrates, procured torches lighted; but the lights were almoſt as inſtantly ſtruck out by the mob: in the end however the ſoldiers protected and ſecured the waggons, and the next day ſome of the rioters were caſt into priſon. But the mob aſſembled again and broke all the gaol windows. Some of theſe rioters alſo were ſecured in priſon, and, to prevent a reſcue, a captain's guard of 100 men, with fifteen rounds of powder and ball, ſtood to guard the priſon, where they continued all night. The mob, after this ſpirited conduct, diſperſed. In ſeveral other places in the county there were riots about the ſame time. At Hinckley, two principals in this riot were reſcued, when in cuſtody of ſome conſtables, by the mob there; but on a troop of dragoons, and a party of the militia of the county, marching to the aſſiſtance of the civil power, ſome of the rioters were taken, and brought under a ſtrong guard to priſon; where they were, for a time, ſecured in the dungeon, loaded with irons. Afterward ſeveral other rioters were taken up, and lodged in priſon.——At Sheepſhed, it was with difficulty ſome rioters were taken who had been concerned in deſperate outrages.

Theſe rioters were tried in the ſucceeding March, A. D. 1767, when in conſideration of their long impriſonment, their puniſhment was but inconſiderable: ſome were fined in ſmall ſums, and others were impriſoned for a certain portion of time.—Thus ended, by the ſpirited behaviour of thoſe in power, one of the moſt alarming tumults which has been known in theſe parts.

1767, *William Holmes.* John Lewin, Henry Watchorn.

In his mayoralty was that violent conteſt, recent in the minds of moſt men; in which the Hon. Booth Grey and Col. Coote were choſen to repreſent this place in parliament, in oppoſition to the late Mr. Darker and the late Mr. Palmer. This conteſt laſted 14 days(*a*).

1768,

(*a*) Since this election an innocent holiday has been gradually dwindling into diſuſe. It had long be-

1768, *John Weſtley*, died,
John Gamble, choſen. William Brown, William Simpſon.
1769, *Joſeph Chambers*. John Hartall, Thomas Phipps.
1770, *James Cooper*. John Clark, Samuel Topp.

Jan. 17. the body of a new born female child was found murdered in the horſe pool, at the ſouth end of the town. The murderer was never diſcovered.

1771, *John Cartwright*. William Taylor, Thomas Barwell.
1772, *Robert Peach*. Edward Price, William Oldham.

June 27. a terrible ſtorm of hail and rain, attended with thunder and lightning did much damage in Leiceſter to chimnies and roofs of houſes. At Wiſtow ſeveral large elms were ſplit from the top to the bottom, and ſome were torn up by the roots.

At the general quarter ſeſſions of the peace, held at Leiceſter Caſtle, in the ſpring of the year 1772, a woman, deaf and dumb, gave evidence, by ſigns, againſt the father of a baſtard child, begotten of her body, to the ſatisfaction of a crouded court.

In July 1772, a fire broke out, in the night time, at the Lion and Lamb

ſore been cuſtomary, on Eaſter Monday, for the Mayor and his brethren, in their ſcarlet gowns, attended by their proper officers, in form, to go to a certain cloſe, called *Black-Annis'-Bower Cloſe*, parcel of, or bordering upon, Leiceſter Foreſt, to ſee the diverſion of hunting, or rather the trailing of a cat before a pack of hounds: a cuſtom, perhaps, originating out of a claim to the royalty of the foreſt. Hither, on a fair day, reſorted the young and old, and thoſe of all denominations. In the greateſt harmony the ſpring was welcomed. The morning was ſpent in various amuſements and athletic exerciſes, till a dead cat, about noon, was prepared by aniſeed water, for commencing the mock hunting of the hare. In about half an hour, after the cat had been trailed at the tail of an horſe, over the grounds, in zig-zag directions, the hounds were directed to the ſpot where the cat had been trailed from. Here the hounds gave tongue, in glorious concert. The people from the various eminences, who had placed themſelves to behold the fight, with ſhouts of rapture, gave applauſe; the horſemen daſhing after the hounds thro' foul paſſages, and over fences, were emulous for taking the lead of their fellows. It was a ſcene, upon the whole, of joy, the governing and the governed in the habits of freedom, enjoying together an innocent and recreating amuſement, ſerving to unite them in bonds of mutual friendſhip, rather than to embitter their days, with diſcord and diſunion. As the cat had been trailed to the Mayor's door, thro' ſome of the principal ſtreets, conſequently the dogs and horſemen followed. After the hunt was over, the Mayor gave a handſome treat to his friends; in this manner the day ended.

Some Mayors have given it as a reaſon, why *they* diſuſed the feaſt, and conſequently the cuſtom, that *improper people* obtruded themſelves upon the company at dinner. Perhaps a more cogent reaſon may be aſſigned. The Mayor is allowed a certain ſum of money to keep up the dignity of his office during his year; feaſt or no feaſt the receipt is the ſame from the town purſe.

Lamb Inn, which totally deſtroyed three bays of buildings, and greatly damaged ſome others.

The manufacturers of ſtockings, in Leiceſter, and the villages adjacent hearing ſome unfavourable reports reſpecting a ſtocking-frame which had been made by an ingenious mechanic, aſſembled on Monday March the 15th, 1773, for the purpoſe of deſtroying it; it being ſuppoſed ſo to expedite their buſineſs that might occaſion numbers of them to be unemployed. But altho' the report was groundleſs, they dared even to force themſelves into the 'Change, where it had been lodged by the order of the Mayor; took it thence, and carried it in triumph round the town, and at laſt deſtroyed it, and diſperſed without further miſchief.——The conduct of Mr. Ald. Peach, the then Mayor of Leiceſter, and Mr. Simpſon and Mr. Goode, the proprietors of the frame, was highly applauded by the inhabitants of Leiceſter in general, on this occaſion, in endeavouring, by gentle means, to convince the ſtocking-makers of the impropriety of their conduct.

1773, *Richard Roberts Drake.* James Biſhop, James Oldham.

Oct. 36, a fire broke out in the ſtables of the black Lion Inn, in Humberſtone-gate, where were 18 horſes, many of which were miſerably ſcorched; ſix of them died in conſequence.

1774, *Samuel Oliver.* Sampſon Chapman, John Parſons.

1775, *Joſeph Johnſon.* William Aſtle, Hamlett Clark.

1776, *Samuel Jordan.* Edward Sutton, Robert Dickinſon.

1777, *John Coleman.* Joſeph Neale, Thomas Baſs Oliver.

A very remarkable trial took place in Aug. 1778. Francis Soules, a French Teacher in Leiceſter, was indited for the murder of John Fenton, who loſt his life in the amiable office of preventing, as he thought, the murder of his own brother. The ſtory is briefly this: Soules, and James, the brother of the unfortunate John, were playing together at Billiards, at the dolphin Inn; a quarrel aroſe about 6s. violent words paſſed, in which *Soules* conceived himſelf reflected upon by Mr. Fenton, and in conſequence borrowed, or purchaſed, a brace of piſtols, with which he ſoon returned to the Billiard room,

and challenged Fenton to fight, laying one down on the table. Mr. Fenton haſtily took it up and ran down ſtairs with it for the purpoſe of informing the Mayor of the tranſactions, thinking his life in danger. Soules immediately followed to find him, went once or twice to his mother's houſe, the Green dragon in the market-place, and enquired after him. John, the young man who was killed, was ſitting with company in the houſe, and knowing the buſineſs, in ſome meaſure, that Soules was upon, ſeized the Frenchman by the hams, and was endeavouring to thruſt him out of the houſe, when Soules, pulling out a piſtol from his pocket, ſhot him in the neck, of which wounds he died next day.

The trial was before Mr. Juſtice Aſhurſt. Soules' counſel pleaded that in the priſoner was no malice prepenſe, and requeſted to have the verdict, if it affected his life, made ſpecial, to which the court conſented.

The Judge, after ſummoning up the evidence, put the following queſtions to the jury.

1. Do the jury agree to the repreſentations given by the evidence touching the facts at the Billiard table? *Agreed.*

2. Did the priſoner fire the piſtol deſignedly, or did it go off by accident? *Deſignedly.*

3. Did the priſoner go to the Green dragon only to recover his property (the piſtol,) or with an intent to excite James Fenton to fight a duel, or to do him ſome miſchief? *He went there with a deſign only to recover his property.*

The next aſſizes following by the judges' opinion it appeared that he was guilty of murder; but a ſpecial meſſenger alſo appeared, at the ſame time, with his Majeſty's pardon.

1778, *John Pocklington.* John Eames, Thomas Lockwood.
1779, *John Gregory.* Joſeph Burbage, John Mansfield.
1780, *Henry Watchorn.* Benjamin Gregory, Thomas Criſty.

A fire at the Lion and Lamb, in December, burnt 6 ton of hay, and the building it was in.

1781, *Thomas Barwell.* James Willey, Thomas Jeffcut.

1782,

1782, *James Biſhop.* William Bellamy, William Biſhop.

Cockmuckhill houſes were taken down, and alms houſes in their ſtead built lower down the Belgrave-gate by ſubſcription.

1783, *William Oldham.* Edward Harris, John Baſs Oliver.

18. Aug. about 9 o'clock at night, a ball of fire, with a long train, was ſeen paſſing over Leiceſter, apparently about 40 yards above the houſes, in a direction north and ſouth weſt. It was ſeen in other parts of the kingdom, and ſome affirmed it was accompanied by the ſhock of an earthquake.

In Feb. 1784, there was a grand maſquerade upon the river, near the Bath gardens, during a hard froſt. The gentleman performers attracted an amazing concourſe of people, and afforded much pleaſantry in their maſques.

Farenheits Thermometer was, Dec. 26, ſunk to 39 degrees, which is 11 lower than the freezing point, and 8 lower than it is in moſt winters(*a*).

The abolition of throwing at cocks, on Shrove-tueſday, was begun, and nearly effected in Mr. Oldham's mayoralty.

1784, *Joſeph Chambers.* Abel Webſter, William Watts.

This gentleman's third mayoralty, a thing very unuſual in ſo large a corporate body.

1785, *John Parſons*, died,

Robert Peach, ſucceded. James Mallet, J P Allamand.

Mail coaches firſt came to Leiceſter July 26, 1785.

1786, *Hamlett Clark.* John Slater, John Saywell

1787, *Robert Dickinſon.* James Cook, Thomas Peach.

A notable coin was found at the Recruiting Serjeant; ſee page 20.

A very riotous mob aſſembled in conſequence of an attempt to introduce, into Leiceſter, a ſpinning machine, Nov. 30th 1787. The people aſſembled for the purpoſe of deſtroying it; they ſearched many houſes where they thought any part of it was concealed; and at

(*a*) A boy was found frozen in a ditch, in Ailſtone gorſe, during this intenſely cold ſeaſon, who had remained there, having loſt his way, 11 hours. His feet were frozen to the ground and he nearly dead, ſtanding erect; but by proper aſſiſtance he was recovered.

at length broke into Mr. Wetſtone's houſe in North-gate-ſtreet, in the night time, and deſtroyed his furniture, ſtock in trade, and trading utenſils, as being a principal (as the mob conceived) in introducing into the town, a piece of mechaniſm that would eventually rob them of that labour which ſupplied their wants.—Moſt probably it would have had a very contrary tendency.

Dec. 19, 1788, Mr. Bull, Butcher of this place, ſold a wether ſheep, 3 years old, the property of Mr. Biddle of the oaks, Leiceſter foreſt, who bred it from a ram of Mr. Paget's of Ibſtock: It meaſured 3 inches and upwards of fat all the way from the rump to the neck; the breaſt cut 4 1-2 inches ſolid fat. The bone was remarkably light; it was allowed by judges to be the compleateſt ever brought to Leiceſter market.

This year the inhabitants began to tax themſelves (without applying for an act of parliament) with the expence of paving the ſtreets after the London faſhion. Mr. Nichols, a man of public ſpirit, was one of the firſt promoters of the improvement, as he has been on many other occaſions where public utility has been in view.

1788, *Henry Watchorn.* Edmund Swinſen, William Parſons.
1789, *John Dalby.* Thomas Chatwin, Edward Marſton.

The election, in his year, for repreſentatives to ſerve in parliament for the borough, was replete with miſchief. The conteſt was carried on with warmth and intemperance, which was opportunely ſtopt by a coalition of parties, or rather by withdrawing a candidate on each ſide. The gentlemen who retired to prevent further miſchief and an intolerable growing expence, were Mr. Montelieu, and Mr. Halled. The very handſome manner theſe reſpectable characters left Leiceſter, to reſtore peace to the town, was expreſſed in a hand-bill, left by the latter gentleman; it was admired by all parties, then, as a compoſition which did equal credit to his head and heart. That part of it which relates to the reaſon of theſe gentlemen declining the conteſt is in the note below(*a*).

1790,

(*a*) " To the Electors of the Borough of Leiceſter.

GENTLEMEN, I Left the town Yeſterday too much in a Hurry, to be able to return YOU my heart-

felt

1790, *John Eames.* John Freer died,

Joſeph Johnſon ſucceeded, Thomas Wright

A rigid examination into the weights and meaſures, uſed in this town, was a popular act of this magiſtrate.

1791, *Joſeph Neal.* Thomas Read, Samuel Clark.

A very extraordinary diſcovery was made in November by ſome workmen ſinking a well, in High-Croſs-ſtreet, on the premiſes lately purchaſed by Mr. Lomas, nearly oppoſite the peacock(*a*).

Mr. Neal's Mayoralty has been diſtinguiſhed by a meeting called of the inhabitants of Leiceſter to aſſemble, at his requeſt, to petition parliament for the abolition of the Slave trade, of which the people took but little notice if we may judge from the few who met on the occaſion. However thoſe who were there were gratified with a ſhort ſpeech, from a clergyman, delivered with great accuracy, apparently from the ſtrongeſt conviction of the injuſtice of the traffic: and with a manlineſs that became him as a chriſtian, and a divine.

Another meeting was called, ſanctioned by Mr. Mayor's name, to take the ſenſe of the people reſpecting a houſe of induſtry for the

Xx town

felt Acknowledgements, for the many flattering Inſtances of YOUR favourable Opinion, which I have experienced, and to explain the Motives by which I was actuated. It appeared to the *joint* Friends of Mr. Smith and Myſelf—as alſo I believe to thoſe of Mr. PARKYNS and Mr, MONTOLIEU, that nothing could Aſſuage the Violence of Party-rage in this Borough, but the Removal of a Candidate on *each Side*—and this neceſſarily fell to Mr. MONTOLIEU and Myſelf. Having once made the Sacrifice, however ſevere, it becomes me as a Gentleman and a Man of Honour to perſiſt in it. I do therefore hereby aſſure YOU of my Determination to decline, at preſent, the Honour of being YOUR Repreſentative, and to Requeſt the Favour of YOUR Votes and Intereſt for Mr. SMITH and Mr. PARKYNS.

I have the honour to be &c."

(*a*) At the depth of 16 feet, thro' made earth, was diſcovered a thick almoſt impenetrable wall of Foreſt ſtone; apparently the foundation of ſome building, which lay in a line not parallel with the preſent ſtreet; but in a direction from north weſt to ſouth eaſt. Altho' it reached over only a part of the aperture, they took up, at the expence of much labour, nearly 2 cart body full of ſtones, ſtrongly cemented with grout. Below this foundation was a bed of clayey gravel, next a ſtrata of bluiſh marle, underneath which, in a bed of ſandy gravel, at the depth of 26 feet, was found a fragment of ancient pottery, nearly an inch thick, in depth 3 inches, and about 5 over. Its form is ſo ſimple that it is almoſt undeſcribable. It is curved in the middle, but not ſo ſudden as that of ridge-tiles, neither is it flat enough to reſemble that of a Roman brick or tile. It was made at ſome very remote period, I am of an opinion, before the arts of ancient Rome had reached this land. To account for its being depoſited that extraordinary depth in the bowels of the earth, which by the regular ſtrata the workmen paſſed thro' and appeared never to have been diſturbed, is wonderful. Time has much perforated the ſurface. See fig. 4 plate facing page 17.

town at large. This meeting was attended by a great number of the inhabitants, but conducted with confuſion. However in the end a majority was obtained for leave to petition parliament for a bill, which has ſince been given up, in conſequence of a diviſion in the town.

May 19. a number of diſorderly people met in the market-place, in the evening, and becauſe they could not lower the price of butchers meat, they lowered the butchers ſtalls by throwing them down, after which they amuſed themſelves by breaking every individual butchers' windows in the town. Is it not to be feared that that contempt for government which ſome have lately ſhewn in their writings, encourages a licentious ſpirit, which not a few honour with the deluſive name of liberty?

Thus have I brought down to the intended period, the ſecond ſection of this work. A review of which, with ſome few additions, are compreſſed in the following words, ſucceeded by a brief account of characters, natives of Leiceſter, or otherwiſe nearly allied to it, excluſive of its Earls.

The Burgeſſes of Leiceſter had, doubtleſs, many privileges granted to them prior to their incorporation, which are hinted at in many of the Charters. It is alſo as probable that governing truſts were given to ſome of the Burgeſſes, before that time by the Earls of Leiceſter. The charters which ſucceed each other, given by the kings and queens of England, are little more than confirmations of each other, conſequently the government of the town has been nearly the ſame ſince the reign of Henry VII.

The reign of Richard III. has neceſſarily occupied a portion of this labour; in addition to what has been ſaid on that ſubject, I give the following.

The route from Leiceſter which Richard III. took to the field of battle, Mr. R Carver of Kirby Muxloe, a very reputable grazier, judges to be from the old Bow-bridge in a right line to the Frith; from thence acroſs Kirby-lane juſt above a place called Hardington, thence keeping in a direct line acroſs Mr. Bennett's eſtate, at Kirby,

to

to a corner of the ancient Leiceſter foreſt, thence acroſs a farm that was formerly part of the foreſt, occupied by Mr. Carver, to a farm called the Oaks, ſo in a direct line for Market-Boſworth. He obſerves that to this day the old road is very viſible. In ſupport of his opinion that it was an old road, he ſays that in the decree for incloſing the foreſt mention is made of entering the foreſt at a place called Queen's gate, acroſs the Coppice, Coppy dyke, to Barron Parks. Queen's gate, he ſays, without doubt is that gate entering his own farm, in Leiceſter foreſt, from thence acroſs to the Oaks, where juſt beyond that houſe is a runlet of water, called Coppy dyke, where about five or ſix yards back, was found a pavement of large foreſt ſtones, wide enough for 2 carriages to meet. He ſays when you are over that runlet you paſs on for Market-Boſworth as deſcribed above.

This route I think cannot be doubted was that on which the main body of his army paſſed to Boſworth field; but it reſts upon good authority that a part or a detachment of Richard's army marched, probably, along the Foſs to a little beyond Narborough, thence to Elmſthorp, in which church ſome part of his army ſlept the night before the battle.

On the troubles of the laſt century, I have dwelt long; Leiceſter being conſidered by all parties as a place of conſequenee to be in poſſeſſion of. The relation affords us ample room to contemplate on the bleſſing of peace we now enjoy. Charles I. being ſo frequently at Leiceſter, at the ſiege and on many other occaſions, I have given his portrait page 175, fig. 7.

At nearly the concluſion of the unſtable reign of James II. an order was ſent from that Monarch for the diſmiſſion of ſeveral members of the corporation. A copy of the original is in the note below ſigned by the king's own hand(*a*).

I

(*a*) "To our Truſty and Welbeloved the Mayor, Aldermen and Corporation of our Borough of Leiceſter in our County of Leiceſter.

JAMES R.

Truſty and Welbeloved we greet you well. Whereas we have by our Order in Councill thought fitt to remove John Roberts, John Goodale, Thomas Ludlam, Walter Hood, ffrancis Ward, Gabriell Hill, Samueil

I have rather copiouſly related the tranſactions of the corporation reſpecting the ſouth fields: in which account are many particulars not at all intereſting to general readers; but to my fellow burgeſſes the information may be found uſeful.

The annual income to the principal corporation officers, reſpectively, about the middle of the preſent century, excluſive of fees and perquiſites, was, to the *Mayor* £100.—Is now increaſed to £150.—Suppoſed to be worth with fees &c. 170. To the *Recorder* for wine £10.—Is now increaſed to £40. To the *Town Clerk* £7 13 4.—Is now increaſed to £17.—Suppoſed worth, with fees &c, £260. *Bailiff*, an office chiefly of honour. *Solicitor*, chiefly of profit: he conducts all ſuits in law; "the more the merrier." *Steward*, this office depends upon debtor and creditor; the better the times the leſs profitable the office. *Mace-bearer*, £7 6 8.—Is now £15.—Suppoſed worth, excluſive of living at the Mayor's table, £30.

The corporation are addreſſed by the appellation of the *Mayor, Bailiffs and Burgeſſes*; and conſiſt of the Mayor, twenty-four Aldermen, including the Mayor, Recorder and forty-eight Common Council,—A Bailiff, Solicitor, Steward, Town Clerk, and inferior Servants.

CHA-

Samuell Robinſon, Samuell Woodland, Henry Pate, William Springthorpe and John Crecroft, from being Aldermen of that our Burrough of Leiceſter: Samuell Martin, Thomas Tompſon, David Clay, Thomas Drake, Godfrey Barudell, George Steeres, John Hardey, John Burdett, Thomas Ayres, Nicholas Allſop, Richard Maſon, George Crofts, Henry Dann, John Pollard, Edward Wagſtaffe, and John Roberts junior, from being Common Councill men, William Major, ſenior, from being Bayliffe; John Hackle, from being Town Clerk, and William Browne, from being Town Solicitor, of our ſaid Burrough. We have thought fitt hereby to Will and Require you forthwith to Elect and Admitt our Truſty and Welbeloved William Bentley, John Bent, John Brookſby, William Sheeres, Edmund Johnſon, Matthew Symonds, Richard Maſon, Robert Lord, Jonathan Coleman, Henry Treene, and William Warburton, to be Aldermen; Thomas Wallings, John Kerby, Joſeph Dudley, William Walker, Francis Churchman, William Harris, Tobiah Marſhall, John Hewitt, John Cooke, John Hughes, John Buxtone ſenior, Robert Page ſenior, John Davy, William Page, Robert Longton, and John Warburton, to be Common Councill men; John Oneby to be Bayliffe; John Creſwell to be Town Clerke, and Vallentine Houſe to be Town Sollicitor, of our ſaid Burrough, in the room of the perſons abovementioned, without Adminiſtring unto them any oath or oaths, but the uſuall oath for the execution of their reſpective places. with which we are pleaſed to diſpence in this behalfe. And for ſo doing this ſhall be your warrant. And ſo we bid you farewell. Given at our Court at Whitehall, the 27th day of February 1787-8, in the fourth year of our Reigne. By his Majeſty's Command

SUNDERLAND."



CHARACTERS
noticed
in
The History
of
Leicester.

CHARACTERS.

After this general account of the Antiquity and Hiſtory of Leiceſter, under *two* ſections or diviſions of the work, I have judged it neceſſary, before I proceed to the *third* (the Hiſtory of the religious Houſes, Churches, and Hoſpitals), to give a brief account of the characters of thoſe natives, or inhabitants, who, while living, were diſtinguiſhed from the ordinary claſs of men, by ſome eminent or particular trait in their lives. Portraits of ſeveral of them accompany this biographical attempt.

Let not thoſe, whoſe kindred have figured in the higher circles of life, and are noticed here, be offended, that under the appellation, *Characters*, are to be found worthies and unworthies, legiſlators and mechanics, wiſe and ſimple, rich and poor; the ſon of fortune, and the child of ſorrow: all come from one common parent, and all now reſt alike undiſtinguiſhed in the grave.

The reader muſt have perceived that ſome extraordinary characters have neceſſarily been noticed in the ſections above: of thoſe I give references to the page where the account of each is given.

Robert Groſthead, the famed archdeacon of Leiceſter. See page 41.

Robert de Leiceſter, a friar. See page 44.

Henry de Knighton, Abbot of Leiceſter. See page 46.

William Smith, a lover. See page 46.

Wickliff, the great Reformer. See page 46. His portrait faces this page, fig. 1.

Matilda, a follower of Wickliff. See page 51.

William Swinderby, the hermit. See page 47.

Cardinal Wolſey is noticed under the article Leiceſter Abbey, in the next Section. His portrait is repreſented fig. 2, facing this page.

Sir Thomas White, citizen of London. See page 88. His portrait is repreſented fig. 3, facing this page.

Mrs. Mary Heyrick. See the article St. Martin's church in the next section. Her portrait is repreſented fig. 5.

Mother Cook, a reputed witch. See page 106.

Richard Ludlam, famous during the grand rebellion. See pp. 117, 127.

Condit, a wicked chimney-ſweeper. See page 150.

Henry Earl of Huntingdon,

At times, an inhabitant of Leiceſter, and, on every occaſion which preſented itſelf, a conſiderable benefactor to that place. His manſion is called *LordsPlace* (*a*); and he is diſtinguiſhed from the other Earls of Huntingdon, by the appellation of *The Great Earl of Huntingdon.*

This illuſtrious nobleman deſcended from Robert de Haſtings, portreeve of Haſtings, in Suſſex, in the reign of William I. His picture is preſerved in the Town Hall, from which the figure repreſented in the plate of miniature portraits, No. 4, is taken. The original retains the following:

" Henrie Earle of Huntingdon, Lord Haſtings, Hungerford, Botreux, Mulins, and Moules, Knight of the moſt noble order of the Garter, and Lord Preſident of the Queen's Counſill in the North parts of England. This noble peere gave an hundred marks a yeare for ever, to ſundrie godlie uſes, and thirtie pounds to a publique preacher for the whole towne of Leiſter, ten pounds to the chief ſchoolmaſter, ten pounds to four poore ſchollers, and twenty nobles a year to the poore of Wigſton's Hoſpital, in Leiſter, beſides many bookes for a librari, and a ſtock of twentie poundes to provide coles at the beſt hand for the general good of the poore; and ſundrie other greate favours which he did for this corporation." " 1623."

(*a*) " Lord's Place, ſays Mr. Carte, was formerly noted for the entertainment of perſons of the greateſt quality. The firſt time I find it mentioned, it was called Reynold's Houſe or Place. July 27, 11 Eliz. John Eaton of Raunſton, and Ralph Eaton of Leiceſter, gentlemen, ſold it to Henry Earl of Huntingdon. It afterwards came to a gentleman of Northamptonſhire, from whom the corporation purchaſed it about 1642, and in 1702 ſold it to Simon Barwell, who has in part demoliſhed it."

This

This noble peer died in 1595, after ſerving Queen Elizabeth in the moſt honourable employments. The twelfth of her reign he was inſtalled Knight of the Garter, and conſtituted Lord Lieutenant of the counties of Leiceſter and Rutland. He was one of the peers who had the care of Mary Queen of Scots, and ſat upon the trial of Thomas duke of Norfolk.

Sir William Heyrick, *Knight*,

Was a native of Leiceſter, and youngeſt ſon of Mr. Alderman John Heyrick, or Erick, who was twice Mayor of that place. This gentleman was ſeated at Beaumanor, in this county, in the reign of Elizabeth, where his immediate deſcendant, William Heyrick, Eſq. now dwells. By that queen he had the honour of knighthood conferred upon him; and was by her ſent ambaſſador to the court of the Turks. By James the Firſt he was appointed one of the Tellers of the Exchequer. In 1601 he was choſen to repreſent this borough in Parliament; and again, in 1605 and 1620. He died in 1652, aged 96, and was buried with his anceſtors in St. Martin's church, Leiceſter. See his portrait, fig. 6.

This gentleman was of known probity, punctual in his dealings, remarkably accurate in his private as well as public concerns, and acquired ſo large a fortune, that it enabled him not only to aſſiſt many of the nobility with money in thoſe days of ſcarcity, but his ſovereign on many urgent occaſions. His ſervices to this place made him the idol of the people; the eſtimation he was held in by the body corporate may be ſeen under the article, *The Old Hoſpital*, in the third ſection; particulars of his family are inſerted under the article St. Martin's Church, in the ſame ſection. The following is from an old paper in my poſſeſſion, preſerved ever ſince Sir William's time; it powerfully teſtifies what I have advanced reſpecting his character.

"To the moſt venerable and honourable-minded knight, Sir William Heyrick: all ioyes bee multiplyed in this and the world to come."

" W elcome, good knight, unto your native towne,
I f ever any man were welcome here:
L eiſter is bound to ſett forth your renowne.
L oe your good deedes thereto doe make appeare.
I even I, have heard more of your worth,
A nd more a great deale, then I can declare,
M ight I by written volumes ſett it forth."

" H ee liues not now that e'er did half that good,
E ven aged Beadſmen ſhew itt night and day,
Y ett this is not enough, the poore that want their foode,
R unne after you, and for your cominge pray.
I n every churche the bells do ſweetly ringe,
C anticles for your ſake the people ſinge,
K yrrie Eliſon: this from your hearte doth ſpringe."

" Your good worſhip's poore countryman,
In all due obſervance, moſt humble
JOHN HOWE."

Mr. THOMAS STAVELEY,

Steward of the Borough Records in 1662.—This gentleman made a collection towards an Hiſtory of the Town of Leiceſter, which, many years after his death, fell into the hands of Dr. Farmer, of Emanuel College, Cambridge, a native of Leiceſter; and by him was adverti ſed, ſome years ſince, to be printed in a quarto volume, price 10s. 6d. It never appeared. Whether Dr. Farmer, who had deſervedly then acquired the reputation of an excellent ſcholar and a critic, conſidered his ſtanding in the humble ſtation of an editor to a local hiſtory would be degrading to his reputation; or whether he had too prematurely conſidered the ſubject before he announced its publication, I know not. However, the younger Mr. Samuel Carte, an eminent ſolicitor and antiquary, who had a copy of Mr. Staveley's labours, gives the obſervations below of the work, in a letter to Dr. Ducarel, in 1751 (*a*).

I was

(*a*) " His account of the earls of Leiceſter, and of the great abbey, appears to have been taken from Dugdale's Baronage and Monaſticon; but as to his ſentiments in reſpect to the borough, I differ with him in ſome inſtances. By the charter for erecting and eſtabliſhing the court of records at Leiceſter, the election of the ſteward is granted to the mayor and court of aldermen, who likewiſe have

I was favoured with a copy of Mr. Staveley's manuſcript ſo long back as the year 1775. I then wondered, and I am at a loſs to account for it now, that a man with an inclination, and ſuch favourable opportunities, ſhould make ſo few quotations from the records of the corporation. From that ſource of intelligence I have drawn a conſiderable portion of this Section. His hiſtory, had it been publiſhed, ſhould have been called, *The Hiſtory of Leiceſter Abbey, and the Earls of Leiceſter*, inſtead of *The Hiſtory of Leiceſter*. In my account of the Earls of Leiceſter, I have made conſiderable uſe of his manuſcript.

Mr. Staveley was born at Coſſington, in this county; was educated at Cambridge, admitted of the Inner Temple in 1647, and called to the bar in 1654. He was a writer of ſome repute. He publiſhed the Romiſh Horſe-Leach in 1674. His Hiſtory of Churches was not publiſhed till 1712.

In the latter part of his life he retired to Belgrave, where he lived obſcurely, in almoſt a ſtate of melancholy, and died in 1683 (*a*).

ALDERMAN WILKINS,

A mechanic. See page 143. From the authority of the late Mr. Bickerſtaff, I give the following (*b*):

"Baron Carter's father ſet on foot the water-works at 2000l. expence, it was ſaid; Alderman Wilkins undertaking the execution. They were ſerved from the Caſtle Mill, where remain in the wall pot pipes—the water houſe pump, as it is yet called, in St. Martin's pariſh, adjoining to St. Mary's. Wilkins was a man of many ſchemes, a moſt mechanical genius. He entertained journeymen in various pro-

have thereby a ſimilar power, in reſpect to a bailiff for executing their writs. But afterwards, viz. Dec. 20, 7 Jac. I. the great Earl of Huntingdon having been a conſiderable benefactor to Leiceſter, the corporation came to a reſolution of granting to him and his heirs a right of nominating alternately to the office of ſteward and bailiff, and executed a bond under their common ſeal, in the penalty of one thouſand pounds, for enforcing the execution of their grant. And as John Major, Eſq. was elected by the court of aldermen to ſucceed Mr. Staveley [in December 1684], I infer that Staveley was nominated by the Earl of Huntingdon, and confirmed by the aldermen, in purſuance of the grant abovementioned." Nichols's Leiceſterſhire Collections.

(*a*) Nichols's Collections. (*b*) Ibid. page 738.

feſſions. All the houſes in Leiceſter faced with imagery and other external decorations were the acts of his people. His genius was unbounded; he projected an apparatus, or complicated machine, to ſow and harrow, if not plough, at the ſame time; he ſeemed to poſſeſs no ſmall portion of a like ſpirit with the mechanical biſhop his nameſake. It was reported that the corporation were jealous of his abilities, and dared not truſt him with a whole year's mayoralty; but he was once ſupplemental mayor of Leiceſter, and found means to detach ſome property of the corporation. He perſuaded his brethren to part with ſome land in different places, for a conſideration he held forth; part of which he re-ſold to St. Mary's pariſh, to build a workhouſe with garden-ground. The remaining ſpot at the end of this was offered to my father by Wilkins's eldeſt ſon, after his father's deceaſe; but, as the writings to the title to this were wanting, it lay a long time unappropriated and waſte. The heads of the claiming family, two brothers, dying in untoward circumſtances, after having ſacrificed on the altar of Eris, Contention, the whole of their patrimony; the ſpot we advert to, having many years after their deaths been unoccupied, is of late mounded and cultivated."

Sir Nathan Wright,

Lord Keeper in 1700, was born at Barwell, in this county. He was elected recorder of Leiceſter in 1680, in which office he continued till the year 1685, when the then Earl of Huntingdon was appointed by the new charter. In 1688 he was re-choſen recorder, and continued in that office till 1696. In 1692 he took the degree of Serjeant at Law. In 1696 he was made King's Serjeant, and was knighted. He ſucceeded Lord Somers in holding the Great Seal, which was delivered to him, with the title of Lord Keeper, May 1, which office he reſigned in 1705.

Much has been ſaid and written reſpecting his abilities, for the diſtinguiſhed rank he was placed in. The high office he held in thoſe refractory and turbulent times, when party malevolence was unbounded,

bounded, made him on the one ſide the mere ſupport of the Court; and on the other a character truly reſpectable and great. The Tories of the day praiſed him with the moſt flattering marks of their eſteem, bordering on adulation; while the other powerful party, the Whigs, endeavoured to render him an object of contemptuous pity, as a man every way unqualified for his ſtation. One writer ſays, "Accident exalted him to a ſituation, to which his talents were very inadequate (*a*)." Another ſays, "I prevailed with her Majeſty to take the Great Seal from Sir Nathan Wright; a man deſpiſed, and of no uſe to the Crown, and whoſe weak and wretched conduct, in the Court of Chancery had almoſt brought his office into contempt (*b*)." On the other hand, one ſays, "He is deſervedly advanced to the higheſt pinnacle of ſtate preferments, and his conduct is wiſe and loyal." After ſaying much more, he concludes with this panegyric: "In a word, he excells in grace; but his great humility is the moſt ſhining character of all his actions, and his large charity the moſt uſeful.

"The cares of counſel o'er his aſpect reign;
"Though great, he 's juſt, nor midſt his honours vain;
"His life 's an equal thread, correctly ſpun,
"Secure his intereſt, when his days are done (*c*)."

There is no wonder that Sir Nathan Wright ſhould come in for ſuch an immoderate ſhare of abuſe and praiſe, when we look back to the hiſtory of thoſe times immediately ſucceeding the abdication of James the Second.

After Sir Nathan had retired from the Court of Chancery, he lived peaceably at his ſeat at Caldecote, in Warwickſhire, where he died in 1721. His portrait is repreſented fig. 8.

Sir George Beaumont, Bart.

Of Stoughton Hall, in this county, a deſcendant of the ancient and diſtinguiſhed family of that name. He was long an ornament to this

(*a*) Wynne. (*b*) Dutcheſs of Marlborough. (*c*) Dunton, Life and Errors.

town, as its repreſentative in parliament: he was choſen in 1702, and continued in that important truſt till his death in 1737, with an integrity which does honour to his memory: his age 72. "He poſſeſſed," ſays one, who gave his character with the warmth of friendſhip, "every virtue that adorns a public ſtation; diſintereſted, juſt, eaſy of acceſs, affable, humane, beneficent. He exerciſed," continues he, "all the qualities amiable in private life; of an underſtanding quick and lively, of a judgment quick and penetrating, and in converſation obliging, polite, and entertaining. A patron of the poor, and a friend to human kind, he lived beloved, and died lamented."

Sir George Beaumont (whoſe portrait is given in the plate facing page 175, fig. 10.) held ſeveral important truſts under Queen Anne, till the latter end of her reign, when a change of Miniſtry affected not his political principles. He in conſequence retired from the Court; and was rewarded for his integrity, by the plaudits of his conſtituents at Leiceſter, who, at his death, gave his memory unuſual tokens of their affection.

Rev. Samuel Carte,

Vicar of St. Martin's, Leiceſter, an antiquary, and a good divine, and a powerful advocate for the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. By Mr. Carte's hand-writing, in the Regiſter of St. Martin's, he appears to have been inducted in 1699. He died in April 1740, in the 87th year of his age. Under the article St. Martin's Church, I have given the particulars of a memorable diſpute between this gentleman and Mr. Jackſon, Maſter of Wigſton's Hoſpital.

Mr. Carte made ſome conſiderable collections towards the hiſtory of this town, copies of which are in various hands; and the reader muſt perceive that uſe has been made of his labours in this work, particularly in the religious department. His collection was firſt communicated to Browne Willis, in anſwer to ſome queſtions reſpecting the town of Leiceſter. The MS. is now in the Bodleian library at Oxford.

One

One little trait in his character may not eaſily be accounted for, perhaps only on the ſcore of weakneſs; the mentioning of which, I hope, will not ſubject *me* to cenſure in this reaſoning and philoſophic age, in which the belief of the ſpirits of men ſallying forth from the gloomy manſions of the grave, to diſturb the living, is nearly exploded. A female of the name of Smalley, of a reſpectable family, who lived near the Eaſt gate, after being buried, it was ſaid (and generally believed in Leiceſter) that ſhe returned, night after night, to her old dwelling-houſe, in form and dreſs as ſhe had lived. Sometimes ſhe would meet the ſervants upon the ſtair-caſe in ſilk or ſatin; and at other times terrify all within the houſe with her death-like viſage, after ſhaking the bed-curtains in the rooms to awake them out of ſleep. Numberleſs other tales have been told of this haunting ghoſt, which I forbear to mention. However, it is certain Mr. Carte was prevailed upon to exerciſe his clerical function upon the ſpirit, that it might ceaſe its nocturnal viſits. But with what certainty the queſtions and anſwers, which are ſaid to have paſſed between the prieſt and the lady, are given, I know not. But this I know, that if Mr. Carte be deemed a weak man in conſequence of his attendance at this haunted houſe, as it was called, one of our beſt judges, Hale, condemned an old woman, in his day, to ſuffer death for witchcraft, a thing now as much out of the opinion of the world as the belief of hobgoblins and ghoſts.

Sir Lawrence Carter, Knight,

Of a reſpectable family of that name, in Leiceſter, and whoſe deſcendants rank now in the firſt claſs of its inhabitants. This gentleman being a Barriſter at Law, and a near relation of a worthy gentleman, who is mentioned, in page 143, as a projector or great encourager of the ſcheme for conveying water by pipes to the houſes of the inhabitants of Leiceſter, was fixed on, almoſt unanimouſly, to

ſucceed Sir Nathan Wright in the Recorderſhip of this borough, in 1696, in which office he continued till 1729. He was thrice choſen Repreſentative for this town, and reſigned that honourable ſtation on being appointed one of the Barons of the Court of Exchequer. He died in 1744.

Baron Carter reſided within the Newark, Leiceſter, in the dwelling now occupied by Mr. Coltman, a manufacturer, on the ſite of which ſtood the beautiful collegiate church, deſtroyed ſoon after the Reformation.

A little anecdote has been related to me, which, I judge, I ſhould not ſuppreſs: that a man, whom the Baron on a circuit condemned to die, eſcaped from the cart by the aſſiſtance of the multitude, going to the place of execution; and afterwards ſettled at Leiceſter, near the Baron, in the houſe, or rather in a houſe upon the ſite of that occupied by Mr. Wheatley, in Red-Croſs-ſtreet. The man, I am told, made an uſeful member of ſociety, ſaved money, and died in peace.

The Baron's portrait is repreſented, fig. 9, page 175.

* * * * * *

A character of an extraordinary nature appeared at Leiceſter about this time. It is neither neceſſary to aſcertain his name, nor the exact period of time he ſhewed his raſhneſs. It is enough to obſerve, that, falling in love with a fine girl in the town, he endeavoured, by all the means in his power, to obtain her hand at the altar, but without effect. In one of her refuſals ſhe told him, angrily, "that ſhe would never marry him till ſhe had ſeen him at the weathercock of St. Martin's ſpire." The man raſhly undertook to go up thither by the crotchets or knobs of the ſpire, to the terror of a number of ſpectators, and performed the taſk, but loſt his prize; for the girl, either through fear or obſtinacy, could not be perſuaded to look at him.

Dr. PULL,

An inhabitant of Leiceſter, I have noticed in the Leiceſterſhire Excurſions. Here I can only repeat, that no man ſtood higher in the opinion of an open-mouthed multitude, ſwallowing the pills of a quack, than Pull. He died ſuddenly at a butcher's ſtall in the market of Boſworth. It is ſaid, that his loving wife, or ſome of her friends, cauſed him to be put under the turf the ſame night he died; not as boys uſed to do knocked-down cocks, on Shrove Tueſday, to bring them to life again, but to part for ever. A report prevailed, the day after he was buried, that a man paſſing by his grave, about eleven o'clock at night, heard a noiſe therein, but, fearful of being diſbelieved, did not ſpeak of it till the next day. In conſequence of which, his coffin was taken up, or opened in the grave, and the body was found on its belly, with much blood about the vein in his arm, which had been opened in conſequence of his ſudden death. He died in 1755, aged 60.

Rev. Mr. JACKSON,

Confrater, and ſome time maſter of Wigſton's Hoſpital, at Leiceſter; an excellent ſcholar, if not an orthodox divine, and many years a reſident in this place. His writings were numerous, many of them in defence of religion, but not favourable to the Godhead of Chriſt (*a*). He was alſo a great defender of the Revolution, and the Hanover Family. But his great work, which brought him fame, was, "Chronological Antiquities; or, the Antiquities and Chronology of

(*a*) Complaint was once made to the Biſhop of the Dioceſe, that Mr. Jackſon, in reading prayers at the hoſpital, always omitted reading, on the days appointed, the Creed of St. Athanaſius: in his reply, he obſerved, that in the rules of that houſe no other Creed was directed to be read but that of the Apoſtles. Neither the maſter nor confrater of Wigſton's hoſpital are required to ſubſcribe to any article of religion.

the moſt ancient Kingdoms, from the Creation of the World, for the ſpace of 5000 years, &c." 3 vols. 4to.

The late Rev. William Ludlam, who was not at all times in the habit of agreeing with popular or general opinions, ſpeaks thus of him: "He always ſeemed to me rather a man of induſtry than genius, at leaſt ſuch genius as is neceſſary to reconcile the inconſiſtent accounts of ancient writers, and make out a clear ſyſtem of ancient chronology. He certainly took all that he has ſaid about hieroglyphics and myſteries from Warburton; but ſo totally forgot or overlooked it (as was his cuſtom on other occaſions), that he verily thought it all his own; nor did he underſtand any of the Eaſtern languages, except a little Hebrew. He was much offended at Dr. Coney (and would have been at any one) for ſaying that he denied the Divinity of the Son. But then he would not on any account give the Son the appellation of *ſelf-exiſtent*, *neceſſarily exiſtent*, &c. or any of thoſe metaphyſical titles. His being ſo early a defender of Dr. Clarke, and his political zeal for the Hanover Family, got him his preferments; and his earlieſt writings, eſpecially his "Plea for Human Reaſon," appear to have been his beſt (*a*)." By Mr. Ludlam's account, it ſhould ſeem that Mr. Jackſon had induſtry, but little genius; totally unqualified to write the book which gained him fame; had a bad memory, confined knowledge, and pillaged from Warburton a conſiderable portion of his labours. If all this be true, the world cannot diſcriminate.

A moment's digreſſion. I knew but little of Dr. Jackſon, more than his perſon; but this I know, that there are always men, in every age, who endeavour to rate the abilities of others below their own ſtandard (I do not ſay this was the caſe with Mr. Ludlam); but by ſuch means the envious often themſelves ſink into contemptuous pity. What are become of the detractors of the great Camden,

(*a*) Publiſhed in Mr. Nichols's Leiceſterſhire Collections.

whoſe

whoſe "Britannia," ſays a critical writer, "may be ſtyled the common Sun, whereat our modern writers have lighted their little torches?" Their names, like their perſons, are no more. Who knows any thing of *Brook*, or *Brookmouth*, whoſe malignant ſpirit went forth againſt Camden's Britannia? Or Sir Symonds D'Ewes, who threatened that he would diſcover errors in every page of that inеſtimable work? Fuller's invective has alſo ceaſed to be credited, while the labours of Camden do honour to his name and the country that gave him birth.

Mr. Jackſon, born in Yorkſhire, in 1687, was eldeſt ſon of the Rev. John Jackſon, vicar of Doncaſter. He was appointed confrater of Wigſton's Hoſpital in 1717, and maſter in 1729, and died in that office in 1763, aged 77.

George Wright, Eſq.

Is memorable for being repreſentative for this borough from 1727 to 1766, the period of his death. He ſerved with two popular members; Sir George Beaumont, from 1727, till that gentleman's death in 1737; and afterwards with James Wigley, Eſq. of Scraptoft.

This gentleman was the eldeſt ſon of Sir Nathan Wright, and lived at Gothurſt. He ſeldom viſited Leiceſter but on public occaſions.

Alderman Newton.

Alderman Gabriel Newton, the founder of the Charity School, in this place, which bears his name, was the ſon of reputable parents in Leiceſter, where, by marriage chiefly, he procured a conſiderable fortune. He was bred to the combing line, and afterwards was maſter of a capital inn, the Horſe and Trumpet, near the High Croſs, which he quitted, and lived afterwards in the line and character of a gentleman. He had three wives, but only one child, a ſon, who lived nearly to the age of manhood, after whoſe death he turned his thoughts to the laudable purpoſe of being ſerviceable to poſterity.

poſterity. His projects, in the way of charity, were many; and his opponents, who were always ready to thwart his ſchemes, not a few. His temper might not be even at the decline of life; but thoſe who had neither abilities nor inclination to do good might have humoured his inclination without the leaſt injury to themſelves. He once offered to re-build the South front of St. Martin's church, if the church-wardens would indulge him with a ſitting, in it, to his mind for the Charity boys. He likewiſe offered to re-build the Old Hoſpital, if the corporation would conſent to his boys occupying a certain place on the town's premiſes; and many other praiſe-worthy ſchemes he would have executed, had he not been oppoſed by thoſe in power. He was choſen Mayor in 1732.

He was a regular attendant on Divine Service, daily, and was at times rude to the clergyman if he ever omitted the performance of the Church Service, particularly the Athanaſian Creed on the days appointed for it to be read: even the ringing of the prayer-bell he attended to with critical exactneſs (*a*). If he ever found a man voiding water againſt the church wall, he was ſure to receive a blow from the alderman's cane.

Mr. Newton died in 1762, at an advanced age. It has been computed that he left charities to the amount of 14,000l.; but the chicanery of the law has deprived the neceſſitous from the ſupport his bounty intended. To Aſhby-de-la-Zouch, Bedford, Buckingham, Northampton, Huntingdon, Hertford, St. Neot's, Earl Shilton, and Leiceſter, he willed his property, to cloathe and educate the children of the induſtrious poor; but they are all now without that ſupport and ſuccour he intended, excepting the latter place, which was ſecured out of his perſonal eſtate. The heir at law is at preſent en-

(*a*) Mr. Philip Hackett, the then Pariſh Clerk, and he, fought once in the belfry, about Mr. Hackett's boy being irregular in ringing the bell. He broke his cane over the clerk's head, for which the clerk kicked him down the ſtairs.

ing

deavouring to recover the landed property, in conſequence of ſome omiſſion or irregularity in his will.

James Wigley, Eſq.

A gentleman diſtinguiſhed for his humanity and friendly virtues. His reſidence was at Scraptoft, in this county. He was choſen repreſentative for this borough in 1737, in the room of Sir. George Beaumont, in which office he continued till his death in 1765. The amiableneſs of his diſpoſition, amidſt the violence of party detraction, protected him againſt thoſe envenomed ſhafts which generally wound characters at ſuch time, without diſtinction. His enemies, if he had any, were only ſo from principle; they admired the man, when they oppoſed the candidate. When from the duties of his office, his life was ſpent in rural retirement and domeſtic felicity. In him the induſtrious found conſtant employment, and a kind and benevolent maſter. He planted groves, and raiſed a lofty eminence, that all the poor within his knowledge might be employed, to obtain, by labour, bread for their families, particularly during the winter months of the year.

This gentleman was a deſcendant of Henry Wigley, of Wirkſworth, in the county of Derby, who died in 1553, and ſon of Edward Wigley, Knight, who was knighted in 1683, and died in 1711. He married, but died without iſſue. His portrait is repreſented fig. 11, in the above-mentioned plate, from an original painting in the Town-hall.

Rev. Mr. Andrews,

Head Maſter of the Free-School, in this place, and Vicar of St. Nicholas, Leiceſter, died in 1764. He was a gentleman much eſteemed as a divine and a ſcholar. Under his guidance the Grammar-ſchool was a ſeminary of great repute; not only the ſons of the firſt families in theſe parts were placed under his care, but numbers of others, from

from reſpectable families, received an education that does honour to his memory. As a divine, he was much followed: he read with energy; and he taught with juſtneſs and propriety: in fine, he was conſidered as one of the brighteſt ornaments of his profeſſion in his day.

Mr. John Lambert,

One of the moſt humane and reſpectable County Gaolers ever remembered, is noticed here, partly, on account of his corpulency. He was the largeſt man, with reſpect to appearance and weight, ever remembered in Leiceſter. He attended the unfortunate Earl Ferrers, as his keeper, from the Gaol of Leiceſter to the Tower of London, preparatory to his trial, and was in general more noticed than that unhappy Peer on their paſſage thither: the public prints of the day ſpeak of him in words of admiration (*a*). He ſurvived his Lordſhip but a ſhort time.

A word or two reſpecting this character, as a humane and tender keeper of a priſon. Thoſe often pitiable objects who were forced under his care by the offended laws of their country, looked up to him as their common father and their friend. He taught them obedience to the neceſſary ſeverities of a priſon, by a mild adminiſtration of his power. He uſed no bludgeon, nor torture by thumb ſcrews, or other ſuch inhuman inſtruments, even for offences which militated againſt his authority and intereſt. When a poor wretch attempted to fly from the face of juſtice and of judgement, by breaking priſon, he well knew that it was nature that dictated the attempt to eſcape danger: it is obſervable in all diſtinctions of animated nature. In caſes of this ſort, inſtead of puniſhment, he endeavoured to reaſon ſuch out of practices, which, he obſerved to them, were more likely to embitter than to alleviate their ſufferings; and by ſuch kind and

(*a*) Earl Ferrers, after he had ſhot his ſteward, Johnſon, at Staunton Harold, was committed to Leiceſter goal by Mr. Tilly, attorney, newly choſen one of the coroners for the county.

tender

tender uſage he has been known to lead them like lambs to ſlaughter: from priſon they have followed him to judgement, and from judgement to death, with bleſſings inſtead of curſings.

NICHOLAS RICHMOND,

A mercileſs uſurer, who died in Leiceſter but a few years ſince; and whoſe life, being handed down to poſterity, will ſerve no other purpoſe than for mankind to deteſt thoſe actions which have made his memory infamous.

He was born a Quaker, but his life was a perfect contraſt to the humanity of thoſe apparently happy people. Although he lived amidſt ſcenes of the moſt complicated wretchedneſs, yet he was an utter ſtranger to the ſoft feelings of compaſſion. If he had no vices that mark the debauchee, the intemperate, and profane; yet in a round of threeſcore years not the exerciſe of one ſocial duty is to be found.

His coffers were filled from the ſcanty pittance of the miſerable, ſubject to his influence through want. When the needy parent had ſtripped the unoffending babe to procure it ſuſtenance, the pledge was unfeelingly received, while the tender innocent lay folded in its mother's arms in rags.

He owned a certain diſtrict of dwellings, among which he lived, peopled by the moſt indigent, over whom he exerciſed the moſt unlimited oppreſſions; ſenſible that their neceſſities made him (to uſe the language of Scripture) *their miſerable comforter!*

A poor woman, one of his tenants, with a numerous family, who owed him a few weeks rent (for he collected his rents weekly), he ejected in this manner: Knocking at her door, he ſays to the good woman, "I want to ſpeak with thee;—go into the entry, and take all thy children with thee, and I will go to thee." The poor woman, not ſuſpecting his intention, obeyed his requeſt; which was no ſooner

done, than he ſecured the door, ſeized her goods, and never ſuffered her to enter therein any more.

To particularize the ſteps he took to amaſs wealth, would only irritate; ſuffice it to ſay, that his penuriouſneſs prompted him to ſacrifice the precious gifts of heaven to his voluptuous thirſt for gain.—Out of the very few times which he dared to lay out three farthings for half-a-pint of ale, he had once the misfortune to let his mug fall, and ſpill his drink: the trifling diſaſter brought from him this harſh ſentence, "*Guts, guts, ye muſt ſuffer for this.*" The food he took, which was of the meaneſt ſort, he invariably weighed before he allowed the preſſing calls of nature its neceſſities. Potatoes were his chief ſupport, four ounces of which were a ſtipulated meal. His figure was the picture of want, garbed like a pitiable mendicant. Lean as the watery aliment could make him, his languid countenance, under a large hat, ſeemed abſorbed in thought. In the midſt of his vain purſuits, the hand of death ſeized and forced him from his god of riches, to tremble at the preſence of Omnipotence!

—— NURSE,

A child of ſorrow, who was ſervant at the Angel Inn in 1773, is noticed as a character of pity. Few of us but have ſome diſtinguiſhing marks in our lives and actions; his was accidental. A mad dog, paſſing through Leiceſter, bit him ſhockingly on the cheek, which ſoon after brought on him canine madneſs, of which he died, in bitter agonies, in the Leiceſter Infirmary. Dr. Vaughan, in a publication ſoon after, particularly noticed this boy's caſe, but has not dared to announce a cure for that terrible accident, which in 1792 has been truly alarming. Perhaps there are very few misfortunes that befall human nature ſo diſtreſſing to the mind as that of being bit by a mad dog.

dog. What an awful ſuſpence, when ſcarcely a year will free the mind from fatal apprehenſions!

Alderman Ludlam.

Mr. Alderman Edmund Ludlam died in 1775. (See page 150.) This gentleman had deſervedly the reputation of being an able magiſtrate, and was very long conſidered as a leading man in the corporation. He was an aſſiduous and careful tradeſman, a grocer, but was never biaſſed in public meaſures by ſelf-intereſt. Thoſe who have ſeen him at the head of corporation aſſemblies, heard the advice of reaſon, coolneſs, and deliberation. He retired from buſineſs, towards the evening of life, to enjoy the fruits of induſtry, and the conſolation of having lived uſefully amongſt mankind.

Mr. Thomas Lee,

An antiquary, by profeſſion a ſilverſmith, aged 72, with whom I had the pleaſure of an acquaintance, died in 1776. He made a large collection of ancient coins, and had, through life, made antiquity his chief ſtudy. He mingled but little with the world, and cared as little about its concerns. He was extremely ſhy, and particularly modeſt. He would neither hear nor utter an expreſſion of levity; notwithſtanding he was agreeably familiar with his acquaintance. His memory was retentive even on the verge of the grave. His peculiarities, which were the effect of ſhyneſs, were of that kind which rather called forth the ſmile of pleaſure than the frown of diſguſt. I have noticed Mr. Lee in page 12, and his coins in p. 21.

Mrs. Lamb,

An inhabitant of this place, and a lamb in almoſt every ſenſe of the word, for ſhe endured the Cæſarean ſection with that patience and fortitude, in the face of death, which aſtoniſhed all around her. She had, alas! but one alternative, to ſave her child, or both muſt periſh. The operation was performed in the Leiceſter infirmary, in the preſence of Dr. Vaughan; the principal operator, I believe, the late Mr. Atkinſon, ſurgeon, aſſiſted by all the eminent ſurgeons in Leiceſter. The infant taken from her was full-grown, and healthy. The pitiable ſufferer languiſhed a day or two, and died ſeemingly without pain.

It is ſomewhat remarkable that young Cæſar ſhould paſs through Leiceſter in 1791, a priſoner for deſertion.

Mr. Basset,

Commonly called Dr. Baſſet, an apothecary. This genius was truly an original. He lived in, what is now called *St. James's Square*, the upper end of the Market-place. He had the reputation of being a judge of his buſineſs; but neglected it for the enjoyment of conviviality. He poſſeſſed an eſtate of about ſeventy pounds a year, which in ſome meaſure enabled him to ſpend much of his time in the company of his tippling friends. The Bear and Swan was his principal reſort, then kept by a Mr. Lawton.

Baſſet's ſpirits, when juſt warmed with liquor, were upon the wing; he was then, of all men I have ſeen, the moſt capable of entertaining: his wit was inceſſant and ſpontaneous; it flowed without ſeverity, but was given without reſerve. When exceſs had more unbridled him, he ſtung with ſarcaſms of a rude and vulgar nature, oftentimes offenſive to delicacy. The late Mr. Bickerſtaff, who himſelf

ſelf has ſaid ſome good things, went into holy orders late in life, before which time he was at once his chief companion, and at the periods of inebriation the chief object of his ſatire. I am aware that relations of ſmart things, ſaid in moments of intoxication, would not be entertaining, generally, to readers. I therefore forbear enumerating many ſallies of wit, which flowed from this eccentric genius, better adapted indeed, and much better received, at the board of feſtivity and conviviality, than on paper. One little anecdote I will juſt relate.

The Doctor, in one of his merry fits, was ſent for to the Green Dragon, in the Market-place, to draw a man's tooth, who was in great agonies through pain; and he, either miſtaking the man's direction to the decayed tooth, or through careleſſneſs, drew out a ſound tooth for that in pain, for which he got heartily damned by the countryman, and loſt his pay. "Damn me not," ſays the Doctor; "I know the law, an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth." Whereupon he immediately placed the inſtrument to one of his own teeth, and drew it out, by way of fulfilling the law; which, being done expeditiouſly and unexpectedly, turned the man's wrath into immoderate laughter, in which it was impoſſible for the company not to join, in ſeeing two men merry with their mouths bleeding from the ſame cauſe.

JOHN DARKER, ESQ.

A repreſentative for the borough of Leiceſter, highly eſteemed by his conſtituents. This gentleman's anceſtors were natives of Stoughton, in this county. He was a London merchant, and acquired a large fortune; Treaſurer of St. Bartholomew's Hoſpital; a Fellow of the Royal and Antiquarian Societies; and generally, in the Houſe of Commons, choſen on Committees of trade and commerce. One of the moſt

moſt ſhining traits of his character is, that although he was avowedly choſen by one of the parties which divide, and has long divided, the town of Leiceſter, friends, *it is ſaid*, to prerogative, and enemies to freedom; yet his conduct was that of an upright legiſlator, influenced neither by the party who honoured him with their confidence, nor any meaſures which did not agree with the dictates of his honeſt mind; he was as free within the walls of the Houſe of Commons as the paſſing air, juſt as all there ought to be. What are often the dictates of thoſe who ſend ſuch men thither? Very often, the ill-judged opinions of a faction, formed haſtily from a deluſive tale in a public print, or the miſguiding harangues of ſome noiſy orator, whoſe chief merit is in being abuſive and illiberal!

Mr. Darker died in 1784, after being a third time choſen to repreſent the borough of Leiceſter. His portrait, from an original picture in the Town Hall, is facing page 175, fig. 12.

Dr. Watts

May be ſtyled a native of Leiceſter (for his family lived at Danet's Hall, juſt without the town). He was educated for a Doctor of Phyſic, in which line he practiſed many years; and afterwards took orders in the Church, but attained no preferment of conſequence in that way. He was a man of honour, and a man of ſenſe. With a ſlender fortune he lived uſefully, and died an honour to his family and friends, in 1786, aged 61.

Dr. Watts ought to be long in memory as the projector of the Leiceſter Infirmary. He urged the meaſure in language the moſt forcible and convincing, and it may be juſtly ſaid, that he laid the corner-ſtone of that great charity. The guardians of that inſtitution, in its infant ſtate, being convinced that he alone ſtepped forward to plead for the afflicted neceſſitous poor, not only appointed him a Governor for life,

life, but, in a public and moſt flattering manner, gave him thanks, as an honorary reward for his humanity. I ſcruple not to give his addreſs to the publick, which called forth the attention of thoſe who had abilities to relieve the diſtreſſes of the unfortunate (*a*).

REV.

(*a*) " The great utility of the laborious poor, thoſe ſupporters of ſociety, upon whom the wealth, upon whom the proſperity, upon whom the defence, upon whom the very exiſtence of the nation, doth ſo manifeſtly and mainly depend.

" The but too obviouſly diſgraceful, and fatal, neglect of them. The leaving them to the vexatious and diſtreſsful conſequences, of the various deplorable accidents and diſtempers to which they are ſo liable; or, what is ſtill far worſe, a prey to thoſe ignorant, thoſe intereſted, to thoſe enterpriſing, to thoſe utterly unfeeling, intruders upon the faculty, and depredators upon property and life, who in this nation (though ſo happy in its laws and government) ſo grievouſly abound.

" The natural and alarming conſequences of ſuch unnatural and evident neglect; a numerous ſickly, maimed, languiſhing, and burthenſome poor; a weakly offspring; and population decreaſing from this, at leaſt as much as from any other ſingle cauſe.

" The improbability, not to ſay impoſſibility, of having them taken care of ſpeedily, effectually, comfortably, and cheaply, at home.

" But the miniſter of each pariſh, and the gentlemen of the faculty can beſt tell, and let every honeſt and experienced one teſtify, the frequent conſequences in ſufferance, and at length in expence, of even the commoneſt accidents, whether contuſions, or the ſlighteſt puncture or cut; eſpecially in depraved habits, in bad ſituations, and unfavourable ſeaſons; through want of proper, or under, what is ſtill worſe, improper care: What foul ulcers, and even foul bones, and ſtiff joints, thence proceed. Thoſe gentlemen can alſo beſt tell, what complicated and radicated diſtempers ariſe from, that univerſal one amongſt the poor, worms, or from, that almoſt as univerſal one, intermittents, ſuperinduced, amongſt other cauſes, thereby; degenerating into putrid fevers; bringing on jaundice, dropſy, aſthma; or terminating in deep-ſeated abſceſſes: whence a languiſhing, hopeleſs life, and a premature death.

" Here is no exaggeration; but the too daily experience, alas! affording but too full and melancholy evidence of theſe.

" Any perſon, who at all adverts to the ſtate of the laborious poor, cannot but obſerve how few have houſes fit for a bed of ſickneſs, how very few can be attended properly in their habitations, ſuch as they are; being ſometimes at great diſtance from each other, vaſtly further from the profeſſors of phyſic and ſurgery, which muſt make the charge of medicine and attendance utterly inſupportable to them; whence, either left to themſelves, or falling into unſkilful and diſhoneſt hands, they become objects of the moſt complicated miſery and diſtreſs.

" The ſecondary inducements ariſe from the manifeſt and manifold advantages of the many eſtabliſhments of this kind, which have in various counties already taken place.

" Advan-

Rev. Mr. William Ludlam,

A native of Leiceſter, known but little as a Divine; but as a Mechanic, we have been taught to believe, ranked in no inferior claſs;

" Advantages, ſuch to the ſick and maimed poor as are indeed not to be had by even perſons of fortune in their private families.

" Thoſe admitted are not only accommodated with every thing neceſſary or proper for them in their reſpective conditions, but have ſuch conſtant and regular attendance of perſons thoroughly verſed in every branch of phyſic, ſuch well-inſpected drugs, ſuch appropriate medicines, ſuch exact diet, ſuch experienced nurſes and aſſiſtants, ſuch convenience of external applications, as of hot and cold baths, pumpings, ſweating-chairs, and other collateral aids, that it muſt be an happy combination of circumſtances, indeed, under which perſons of wealth and diſtinction themſelves can be ſo aſſiſted.

" The advantages to the community, in prompt relief, ſpeedy and radical cures, whereby ſo very many are kept from being long a load alike to ſociety and themſelves; which advantages are ſo very conſpicuous, where men with minds open to conviction attend duly thereto; and reſult indeed ſo immediately from the above, that it would be impertinent to ſpecify them there.

" The reſult of a proper enquiry into the ſtate of the ſick and maimed poor, how very greatly they ſtand in need of, and how very highly they deſerve, better care; the reſult of an inquiry into the nature and obligations of our duty to them, and therein to the univerſal Lord: The reſult of an inquiry into the manner wherein the moſt conſolitary, the moſt efficacious, the moſt endearing, at the ſame time the leaſt expenſive aſſiſtance can be given, will, I doubt not, be, that a public Infirmary, not only in this, but in every county is required. Whether the voice of the moſt œconomical polity, the voice of reaſon, of humanity, of religion, be heard, each loudly declareth, that the moſt adequate relief of the diſtreſſed, to the diſburdening the pariſhes, to the credit of the nation, to the credit of this province, to the credit of each individual ſubſcriber, to the endearing the rich to the poor, to the glory of that unſpeakable great and good Being, who delighteth in mercy, and to the obtaining that mercy pronounced upon the merciful, of which not only the nation in general, but each individual, ſo very greatly ſtandeth in need.

" Much more might certainly be added concerning the expediency and neceſſity of an inſtitution in every view agreeable to the dignity of the county, and for the public good. But the lives and limbs of thoſe tillers of our fields, by the ſweat of whoſe brow we break bread: The lives and limbs of thoſe ſoldiers and ſailors, who are at once the intrepid aſſertors of our liberty, and that of mankind: The eaſe and relief of our compatriots and comprovincials, of thoſe our fellow ſufferers who have truly the poſt of honour in this life of manly trial here below, and are heirs of the ſame ſure and immortal hope: Motives theſe ſo exceedingly intereſting and important, the great characteriſtic of the nation ſo prevalent alſo and diffuſed, that it would be an inſult to enlarge.

" Only be it permitted to add, that I write in the fulleſt and moſt experimental perſuaſion of the neceſſity of what I have undertaken to recommend; that I nevertheleſs moſt heartily wiſh the affair

claſs. I profeſs to know but little of his abilities, and I wondered that ſo little was ſaid of him at his death by thoſe who were judges. Mr. Bickerſtaff, to be ſure, has remembered him in the Leiceſterſhire Collections, from which the following is copied.

" William Ludlam, B. D. F. R. S. rector of Cockfield in Suffolk, and vicar of Norton by Galby, was formerly fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, where he proceeded B. A. 1738; M. A. 1742; S. T. B. 1749. He was celebrated for his mechanical genius and diſcoveries in mechanics and mathematics, and his communications of them to the Royal Society, who have publiſhed them in their " Philoſophical Tranſactions;" viz. " Account of a new-conſtructed Balance for the Woollen Manufacture," vol. LV. p. 205; " An Engine for turning Ovals in Wood or Metal, and drawing Ovals on Paper," LXX. 378; " Obſervations on the Tranſit of Venus and Eclipſe of the Sun at Leiceſter, June, 1769," LIX. 236: " Eclipſe of the Sun at Leiceſter, 1778," LXVIII. 1019; " Aſtronomical Obſervations there," LX. 355. LXV. 366. 370. He was alſo author of " Four Theological Eſſays on Scripture Metaphors, and other Subjects, 1787," 8vo; and " Two Eſſays on Juſtification, and the Influence of the Holy Spirit," in addition to the foregoing, 1788. In Gent. Mag. vol. XXXV. p. 412, is his report to the board of longi-

affair was in abler hands, that I am too well acquainted with my ſtation to preſume, and with the rights of mankind, whatever were my ſtation, to pretend to dictate, in a manner of ſo general and weighty concern.

" If, either in virtue of any perſonal experience, or of the materials which I have collected, or of the aſſiſtance wherewith I am favoured, I can in any ſhape ſerve the community, and that (I hope evidently) without any the leaſt intereſted intent, I ſhall have a great additional cauſe to bleſs and praiſe that good God, under whom I ſubmit this to all to whom it any way relateth, and principally to thoſe who in their exalted ſtation may, through the divine influence, beſt promote and bring it ſpeedily to good effect.

" I would hope that it will not appear aſſuming or preſumptuous, in me, that in the humble duties of mine, I endeavour thus to render myſelf an uſeful (being very truly an affectionate) ſervant of the community in general, and of my native county in particular.

W. WATTS, M. D.

 tude;

tude; and vol. XLII. p. 562. a ſhort account of Church Organs.—Mr. Ludlam died at Leiceſter, March 16, 1788. "A turn-about octangular table in my family, ſuppoſed the fabrication of Dr. Ludlam, a notable mechanic in his day, and a child's chair well timbered, and high to ſit at table, with a very convenient foot-board. His ſons William and Thomas were both clergymen, and both eminent mechanics; yet Thomas *haud paſſibus æquis*, his daughter boarding ſeveral years at the late Alderman Weſtley's, a great undertaker of building and wood works. Perhaps a congenial ſoul might attach her there to the chromatic harmony of axe and ſaw. She was ſtepmother to the preſent Mr. Cradock, of the theatre and literary world. Inſtances of this kind may give birth to a notion that ſouls as well as bodies are *ex traduce*." W. B.

Rev. Mr. Bickerstaff.

Once the companion of Baſſet; and, methinks, I hear thoſe ſay, who chuſe the ſubſtance for the ſhadow, or, in other words, who think all folly which has not for its end the amaſſing of wealth, a brother to J. T. in ſimplicity. He, like myſelf, and many others, has been employed hours, days, weeks, and years, about things of little profit; while ſome have been heaping up the one thing needful, (ſays the worldling) piles of glittering gold. He has been meaſuring the raw dykes, the magazine, &c. &c. contemplating paſt ages; while others were laying houſe to houſe, and field to field, by a more profitable, if not leſs honourable, employment; and, I am ſure, if the monument of king Dick had now remained among us, he would have been ſolicitouſly employed in preſerving even the length of his ſtature's noſe; ſo deſirous was he of letting nothing eſcape him that might inform the enquirers of after-times what was paſſing in the preſent.

I have frequently had occaſion to make mention of his name in theſe pages: the purſuits of the latter part of his life required it, for things

things of antiquity and electrical amuſements were then his chief employment; by the latter, I dare ſay, he not only amuſed himſelf, but intended to benefit others. He wrote ſome good fugitive pieces to the Gentleman's Magazine, that univerſally read periodical work; he was, at one time of his life, a conſiderable contributor. Two of his poetical effuſions, from that work, are in the note below, which being of a local nature, and more applicable to theſe pages than others of his pieces, the reader may, if he pleaſe, judge, by reading them, of Mr. Bickerſtaff's talents for ſatire. The firſt was on a duel intended to have been fought near Leiceſter, by a Doctor of Phyſic, and a ſurgeon and apothecary. The other was written on ſeeing an inſcription on a monument (*a*).

(*a*) " Two ſons of Galen, high in fame,
Untaught to bear a rival's name.
With pill nor bolus take the field,
But each a dreadful piſtol wield.
Juſt in a moment, big with fate,
Apollo entered Claudius pate,
And whiſpered thus: " What madneſs friend,
Has urg'd you here to ſeek your end?
Why ſhould you kill ſecundum Martem?
Go, ſafely kill ſecundum artem."
Pluto, his intereſt to maintain,
That moment mounts the Doctor's brain.
On pinnacle gland he takes his ſtation,
And utters his auguſt oration:
" If you my wrath or favour heed,
Peace, brother, peace be well agreed;
Throw, throw thoſe murderous arms away,
Spare but yourſelves, your thouſands ſlay.
Your arms medicinal extend,
Yourſelves enrich, my power befriend.
Even Charon wiſhed you to ſpare
Yourſelves, and not abridge his fare."
He ſpake, and ſought the realms of night:
The Doctor took the matter right,
Propoſ'd to let the quarrel die,
The harmleſs bullet mounts the ſky."

The monument inſcription, which Mr. Bickerſtaff has given ſuch a whimſical turn to, is in St. Martin's church, to the memory of a very worthy character, who, at his death, divided a conſiderable fortune between his two ſons.

" H. S. E.
Richardus Walker, Armig.
Vir ſæculi planè antiqui,
Priſcæque Virtutis;
Negotiis ſolers, & rerum prudens;
Moribus comis, idem & integer;
Et hâc noſtrâ vitâ apprimè dignus,
Æternâ adeo dignior.
E vivis deceſſit 19° kal' Septem.
Anno { redemptionis 1781;
ætatis 65,
Optimo Parenti
Johannes, filius minor,
Et ex ſemiſſe hæres,
Animi in ſe verè paterni memor,
Hoc qualecunque officii ſui monumentum
Mœrens poſuit."

Mr. Bickerſtaff was many years Under-uſher to the Free-ſchool in this place, took orders at about the age of fifty, and died, without any church preferment, in 1789, in the 61ſt year of his age.

Mr. J. Nedham,

Alſo a native and inhabitant of Leiceſter; his ſtay was ſhort. He paſſed from ſchool (under the tuition of the Rev. Mr. Pigot), where his acquirements were rapid and permanent, into buſineſs; and from buſineſs to the grave, at the age of 30.

His genius was no way ſuited to buſineſs, which was ſoon diſcovered when unfettered from a ſeven years ſervitude. When a youth, he was ſolicitous to know God, on whom he thought and read, perhaps, too much: it has embittered the lives of many with inſanity and deſperation; him, in the iſſue, it made wild, and at times irreverent. It is enough for finite beings to know, that the Almighty is benignant; and that his perſon and attributes are undeſcribable. I attribute thoſe excentric ſallies of his life to that fatal cauſe of inquiſitiveneſs, out of which aroſe his inſtability. I have often compared him, in my thoughts, to one who had no deſire of wealth nor contempt of riches; he took the day as he found it, without a childiſh murmur or depreſſion; Chance, like the wind

Mr. Bickerſtaff's fanciful turn to it.

"Here lies Richard Walker, late ſurgeon, no 'ſquire,
In perſon and manners as plain as a friar.
He doctor'd his patients with no ſmall addreſs,
But ſometimes, like others, proceeded by gueſs;
Obliging and honeſt to all, aye, his wife,
Fit to live, fit to die, thus he ended his life:
Sept. 19, 1781, in his 65th year.
To a father ſo kind, his ſon John, a great wit,
For whomin the middle his fortune he ſplit,
Tho' younger, inſpired by grief, gratitude, joy,
Erected this monument for the old boy."

ſporting

ſporting with a feather, wafted him from place to place, and from one light purſuit to another. In company he was an excellent companion; as a ſatiriſt, he had no equal, in Leiceſter, in his day. He was governed, in company, by no laws of prudence; he ſtung, but he had a happy and expeditious knack at extracting the poiſon, when he diſcovered the patient in agonies. Let it be known to his enemies, if he had any (for he could have none but ſome of thoſe who might ſuffer by his pecuniary embarraſſment), that he had a heart of pity, and, when in affluence, a ſpirit to relieve the diſtreſſed. I remember that he once obſerved to me, in a coffee-room, on ſeeing a child in winter by its mother's ſide, in the ſtreet, crying and ſhivering with cold, "Throſby! what has that child done more than you or me, and our lot ſo different?" He drank his glaſs of wine, and haſtened, without waiting for a reply, to relieve the child and its mother with ſixpence or a ſhilling.

This is perhaps a faithful, but a ſlight ſketch of his character, by which I have fulfilled, in ſome meaſure, as ſlight a requeſt he made to me ſome little time before he died. "When I am dead, Throſby, will you write my character?"

He has left us no ſpecimens of his writings, although capable, excepting ſome little eſſays in the Leiceſter Journal on a ſhuffling match at cricket, a gamnghe ſeemed remarkably attached to. He died in 1791.

William Corbet,

Diminutive, but exceedingly provident; remarkably ſo in his apparel. He had been long before his death, which happened in 1791, in the ſervice of the late Mr. Bentley, banker and draper, *where he had opportunities* of furniſhing himſelf, agreeably to his extravagant deſires, with requiſites for his little body to laſt for centuries. Poſſeſſed of property which brought him in about 100l. per annum, when at the

the age of 50, he endured a dependant ſtate with the moſt ſervile fear: a word, or a forbidding look, from his maſter, would make him ſkip from his preſence as one in the moſt abject ſlavery. After the death of Mr. Bentley, he inhabited a ſmall houſe in Leiceſter, ſtuffed with cloathing beyond compariſon, formed in the faſhion of his youth. He kept no ſervant; but numberleſs locks and keys, to protect that ſort of treaſure which no mortal coveted. He was a being ſeemingly formed for no rational ſociety: the lovely form of woman, and the other beautiful attractions of the creation, to him were alike indifferent. He was ſtricken with death (as many others have been, of a ſordid mind, ſhut up from ſociety) in his hut-like dwelling, without an accompanying friendly tear at his departure: he was found by a neighbour ſpeechleſs, ſhortly to be no more.

The ſale of his goods and cloathing afforded abundant entertainment. He left forty ſuits of cloaths, twenty dozen of ſhirts, one hundred and twenty table-cloths, and as many napkins made and unmade; fifty pair of ſheets; fifty dozen of purſes made and marked by himſelf, for all the known coin of the kingdom, even down to farthings. What an important employment for a man at ſixty years of age, without a child or a relation that cared a fig for him, to be buſied in making purſes to hold money!

Mr. Davenport,

A native of Leiceſter, ſon of a reſpectable clergyman of that place, who was ſome time Maſter of the public ſchool, and half-brother to Mr. Davenport the Attorney at Law. He is diſtinguiſhed here for his ſuperior knowledge in the Greek language, and his being particularly noticed by that bright ſtar of literature, the late Dr. Johnſon. He was bred to the now reputable buſineſs of a Printer, and acquired, a year or two before his death, an annuity of 30l. bequeathed by the late Mr. Bowyer to the compoſitor who ſhould be deemed beſt quali-





Companions in Simplicity, probably, also, in Chastity.

fied as a Latin ſcholar, and poſſeſs alſo a competent knowledge of the Greek language. He died in 1791, at the middle age of life.

* * * * AND * * * *

The two portraits with which I cloſe my account of Characters, outlined facing this page, were perſons generally known in Leiceſter, as Beings of an ordinary but harmleſs nature, contemporaries, and now claſſed as companions in ſimplicity. The female poſſeſſed in her face all the marking features of man; the male, thoſe of woman in the moments of love; he always ſmiled with unaffected innocence. It is not material for the world to know either their names, their reſpective ages, nor when they died. Thoſe who knew them gave me ſome credit for the ſketches, which, *by permiſſion*, I took from life, and afterwards etched them from the originals.

RECORDERS OF LEICESTER ſince 1530.

1531 Mr. Broxbie.
1536 John Raymond, Eſq.
1541 Edward Griffin, Eſq.
1550 John Beaumont, Eſq.
1552 John Hunt, Eſq.
1553 Francis Farnham, Eſq.
1558 Francis Etton, Eſq.
1559 Robert Breame, Eſq.
1576 Richard Perkins, of Bunney, Eſq.

1603

1603 John Stanford, Esq. who died within a year.—Augustine Nicholls, Serjeant at Law, chosen.
1612 Francis Harvey, Esq.
1624 Thomas Chapman, Esq.
1653 James Winstanley, Esq.
1661 Robert Harding, Esq.
1680 Nathan Wright, Esq.
1685 Earl of Huntingdon, by the new charter.
1688 Nathan Wright, Esq. restored.
1696 Lawrence Carter, Esq.
1729 William Wright, Esq. resigned in 1763.
1763 Robert Bakewell, Esq. removed by a court of Aldermen in 1766.
1766 William Burleton, Esq.
1787 Edmund Wigley, Esq. now Recorder.

REPRESENTATIVES in PARLIAMENT for the Town of LEICESTER, from the Time of EDWARD the FIRST.

EDWARD I.

23 P. at West. *Ralph Norman, Robert de Scanford.*
28 P. at Linc. *John de Kithcote, Roger le Glenne.*
28 P. at Lond. *Richard Downing, Roger Glenne.*
30 P. at West. *Richard Soning, Nich. le Glenne.*
33 P. at West. *Henry Palmer, Hugh de Mercer.*
35 P. at Carlisle, *Ralph Norman, Henry de Carlton.*

EDWARD II.

1 P. at North. *William Lyndrick, William le Palmer.*

2 P. at Weſt. *Henry de Erdington, Richard de Egglebaſton.*
4 P. at Weſt. *William de Lyndryck, William de Walmer.*
5 P. at Lond. *William de Lyndryck, Robert de Leiceſter.*
6 P. at Weſt. *Robert Hereward, Nicholas Mercer.*
6 P. at Weſt. *William Clowne, Richard Leverycbe.*
7 P. at Weſt. *Roger de Glen, John Stockton.*
8 P. at Weſt. *William de Benham, Simon de Lyndrych.*
8 P. at York, *Roger de Pickering, William le Palmer.*
12 P. at York, *William le Palmer, jun. Thomas Fox.*
12 P. at York, *Henry Palmer, John Derby.*
15 P. at York, *John Derby, Jeffery de Staunton.*
16 P. at York, *Ralph. de Burton, Walter Buſſaby.*
19 P. at Weſt. *William Roddington, William Jolly.*

EDWARD III.

1 P. at Leiceſter, *John Fitz Henry de Leiceſter, John Gerim.*
2 P. at North'ton, *Richard Claver, John Gryn,*
2 P. at New Sarum, *John de Glen, William Petling.*
2 P. at Northton, *Richard Claver, John Jeryn.*
4 P. at Weſt. *Richard Bonyinton, Robert de Gryndon.*
4 P. at Wincheſter, *John Levyrich, Thomas Dawbenny.*
6 P. at Weſt. *Henry Merlyn, Richard de Donnington.*
6 P. at York, *John Leverych, John Fitz Henry.*
7 P. at York, *John de Garthorp.*
9 P. at Weſt. *John Leverych, John Querndon.*
9 P. at Linc. *William de Roddington, William de Palmer.*
11 P. at Weſt. *Richard de Donnington, John Martyn.*
11 Council at Weſt. *William Waryn, Richard de Walcote, Robert Porter,* and *Robert Foxon.*
12 P. at Weſt. *Richard de Donnington, John Querndon.*
12 Council at North'ton, *Richard de Donnington, John Turney.*

12 P. at York, *William Palmer, Thomas Fox.*
12 P. at North'ton, *John Hardyng, Robert Bonyng.*
13 P. at Weſt. *William Waryn, Thomas Fitz Robert.*
14 P. at Weſt. *Richard Rudding, William Fitz Richard.*
14 P. at Weſt. *Richard Walcoat, William Brad.*
14 P. at Weſt. *Ralph Burton, John Blake.*
15 P. at Weſt. *John Clark, William Donnington.*
12 P. at Weſt. *Walter Buſsby, William Reddington.*
20 P. at Weſt. *Richard Walcoat, William Dunſtable.*
21 P. at Weſt. *Kichard Beeby, Allan Sutton.*
22 P. at Weſt. *John Reconour, William Wakefield.*
24 P. at Weſt. *William Dunſtable, Thomas Beby.*
25 P. at Weſt. The ſame
28 P. at Weſt. *John Martin, John de Hodyngers.*
29 P. at Weſt. *William Dunſtable, Thomas Beby.*
31 P. at Weſt. *John le Petlyng, Thomas de Crom.*
34 P. at Weſt. *Thomas Beby, Roger Belgrave.*
34 P. at Weſt. *Roger de Knighton, William Burton.*
37 P. at Weſt. *John Peterburrough, Roger Kilby.*
39 P. at Weſt. *William Tabb, John Stafford.*
42 P. at Weſt. *Walter Lynd, Roger de Belgrave.*
43 P. at Weſt. *William Burton, William Atle Greene.*
45 P. at Weſt. *William Taillard, Richard de Knighton.*
45 Council at Wincheſter, *William Taillard.*
46 P. at Weſt. *William Atle Greene, Roger Beeby.*
47 P. at Weſt. *John Stafford, John Peterborough.*
50 P. at Weſt. *Henry de Petlyng, Henry de Clynton.*

RICHARD II.

2 P. at Weſt. *William Huntedon, John Stafford.*
2 P. at Glouceſter, *William Humberſton, William de Thornton.*
3 P. at Weſt. *John Chapman, Andrew Gracewright.*

4 P. at North'ton, *John de Stafford, William Ferrour.*
5 P. at Weſt. *John Sherere, Richard Boyes.*
6 P. at Weſt. *Stephen Chambre, Robert Norton.*
7 P. at Weſt. *Roger Belgrave, Richard Branſton.*
7 P. at New Sarum, *John Stafford, Thomas Wakefield.*
8 P. at Weſt. *Geffry Clark, John Fade.*
11 P. at Weſt. *Gefferey Okeham, William de Moreton.*
12 P. at Camb. *John Fitz John Cook, Geffry Clark.*
15 P. at Weſt. *Geffry Okeham, Henry Debey.*
20 P. at Weſt. *Thomas Wakefield, Roger Humberſton.*

Henry IV.

1 P. at Weſt. *William Biſham, John Church.*
2 P. at Lond. *John London, Peter Clarke.*
8 P. at Weſt. *John-Donnington Goldſmith.*
11 P. at Weſt. *John Church, Robert Emington.*
12 P. at Weſt. *Ralph Humberſton, Robert Emington.*
——— *Thomas Denton, Ralph Brucy.*
——— *John Clinch, John How.*
——— *Henry Forſter, Robert Emington.*
3 P. at Weſt.
7 P. at Glouceſt. *John Donnington, Roger Goldſmith.*
8 P. at Weſt. *John Chirche, John Pikewell.*
9 P. at Weſt. *Henry Forſter, John Nightingale.*

Henry V.

1 P. at Weſt. *Thomas Denton, Ralph Bracey.*
2 P. at Weſt. *John Clinch, John How.*
2 P. at Weſt. *Henry Forſter, Robert Emington.*
3 P. at Weſt.

7 P. at Glouceſter, *John Donnington, Roger Goldſmith,*
8 P. at Weſt. *John Chirche, John Pikewell.*
9 P. at Weſt. *Henry Fowler, John Nightingale.*

HENRY VI.

1 P. at Weſt. *John Heket, Henry Salter.*
2 P. at Weſt. *John Church, Ralph Braſyer.*
3 P. at Weſt. *Thomas Walgrave, John Loughborough.*
4 P. at Leiceſter, *Richard Braſier, Thomas Walgrave.*
6 P. at Weſt. *John Church, William Newby.*
8 P. at Weſt. *William Newby, John Reynold.*
9 P. at Weſt. *John Pykewell, Adam Racey.*
11 P. at Weſt. *William Pacy, John Loughburgh.*
13 P. at Weſt. *John Churche, Walter Pomerſley.*
15 P. at Camb. *John Reynold, Thomas Herbert.*
20 P. at Weſt. *Thomas Burton, William Newby.*
25 P. at Camb. *Thomas Burton, Adam Racy.*
27 P. at Weſt. *William Newby, William Stringer.*
28 P. at Weſt. *William Grantham, Adam Racy.*
29 P. at Weſt. *Richard Fiſher, Thomas Greene.*
31 P. at Reading, *William Wimandeſwould, William Clarke.*
33 P. at Weſt. *Thomas Dalton, William Wigſton.*
38 P. at Weſt. *Thomas Green, Robert Shilling.*

EDWARD IV.

7 P. at Weſt. *Robert Sherringham, John Roberts.*
12 P. at Weſt. *Robert Wigſton, John Roberts.*
17 P. at Weſt. *Peers Curtis, John Wigſton.*
22 P. at Weſt. *Peers Curtis Mayor, John Roberts.*

RICHARD III.

1 P. at Weſt. *John Roberts Mayor, Peers Curtis.*

HENRY VII.

4 P. at Weſt. *Peers Curtis, Roger Wigſton.*
7 P. at Weſt. *Peers Curtis, Robert Clark.*
11 P. at Weſt. *Robert Orton, William Wigſton.*
14 P. at Lond. *William Bolte Mayor.*

HENRY VIII.

——— *Roger Wigſton.*

EDWARD VI.

1 P. at Weſt. *George Swillington, Eſq. Ralph Skinner, Gent.*
6 P. at Weſt. *George Swillington, Eſq. Robert Cotton, Gent.*

MARY.

1 P. at Weſt. *William Faunt, Eſq. Thomas Farnham, Eſq.*
7 P. at Oxford, *Francis Farnham, Thomas Jenkinſon.*
1 and 2 P. at Weſt. *Francis Farnham, Recorder, Hugh Aſhton.*
2 and 3 P. at Weſt.
4 and 5 P. at Weſt. *Robert Breham, Maurice Tyrrel, Gent.*

ELIZABETH.

1 P. at Weſt. *John Haſtings, Robert Breame.*
5 P. at Weſt. *Richard Breham, Eſq. Robert Brookſby, Eſq.*
13 P. at Weſt. *Thomas Cave, Eſq. Stephen Hales, Eſq.*

14 P. at Weſt. *Robert Breham, Gent. John Stanford, Gent.*
27 P. at Weſt. *Henry Skipwith, Eſq. Thomas Johnſon, Eſq.*
28 P. at Weſt. *Henry Skipwith, Thomas Johnſon.*
31 P. at Weſt. *John Chippindale, Robert Heyrick.*

BURGESSES elected to ſerve in PARLIAMENT, from 1593.

1593 Mr. John Stanford, Mr. James Clark.
1596 Mr. George Parkins, Mr. John Stanford.
1601 George Belgrave, Eſq. William Herrick, Eſq.
1604 Sir Henry Beaumont, Sir William Skipwith.
1605 Sir William Herrick, elected in the room of Sir Henry Beaumont, deceaſed.
1608 Henry Rich, Eſq. elected in the room of Sir William Skipwith, deceaſed.
1614 Sir Henry Rich, Sir Francis Leigh.
1629 Sir Richard Morriſon, Sir William Heyrick.
1623, Sir Humphrey May, William Ive Gent.
1625 Sir Hum. May, Sir Geo. Haſtings. } Thomas Jermyne, Eſq. in his place, choſe Geo. Haſtings. Sir H. May, Sir George Haſtings, in the next Parliament. Sir Hum. May, Sir John Stanhope, next Parliament.
1640 Simon Avery, Eſq. Thomas Cook, Eſq.
1641 Thomas Lord Grey, Thomas Cook, Eſq. but adjudged by the Houſe of Commons incapable, Peter Temple elected in his ſtead.
1654 Sir Arthur Haſelrigg, William Stanley, Gent. Alderman.
1658 Sir Arthur Haſelrigg, Mr. William Stanley.
1660 John Gray, Eſq. Thomas Armſton, Eſq. { John Grey, of London, Eſq. William Hartop, of Rotherby, Sir John Prettyman, And William Hartop, Knight. } double return *.

* See page 133.

1661 Sir William Hartop, William Billingham, Eſq.
1678 Sir Henry Beaumont, John Grey, Eſq.
1681 The ſame.
1685 Sir Henry Beaumont, Thomas Babington, Eſq.
1688 Thomas Babington, Eſq. Lawrence Carter, Eſq.
1690 Sir Edward Abney, Lawrence Carter.
1695 Archdale Palmer, Sir Edward Abney.
1698 Sir William Villiers, Lawrence Carter.
1701 James Winſtanley, Lawrence Carter.
1702 Sir George Beaumont, James Winſtanley.
1705 The ſame.
1708 The ſame.
1710 The ſame.
1713 The ſame.
1714 The ſame.
1719 Sir George Beaumont, Thomas Noble.
1722 Sir George Beaumont, Lawrence Carter.
1726 Sir George Beaumont, Thomas Boothby Skrimſher.
1727 Sir George Beaumont, George Wright.
1734 Sir George Beaumont, George Wright.
1737 George Wright, James Wigley.
1741 The ſame.
1747 The ſame.
1754 The ſame.
1761 George Wright died in 1766, John Darker, Eſq. choſen.
James Wigley died in 1765. Ant. James Keck, Eſq. choſen.
1768 Hon. Booth Grey, Colonel Eyre Coote.
1774 Hon. Booth Grey, John Darker.
1780 Hon. Booth Grey; John Darker died in 1784, Shuckburgh Aſhby, Eſq. choſen.
1784 John Macnamara, Eſq. Charles Loraine Smith, Eſq.
1790 Boothby Parkins, Eſq. Samuel Smith, Eſq.

SECT.

SECT. III.

Religious Houſes, Churches, and Hoſpitals.

MAN, we muſt naturally imagine, even in the earlieſt ages of the world, looked up to that Almighty Power with aſtoniſhment and adoration, who only ſaid, "LET THERE BE LIGHT, AND THERE WAS LIGHT." It would not be much to our preſent purpoſe to preface this Section, with a diſplay of ſpeculative opinions on tne earlieſt modes of worſhip; it will be ſufficient to obſerve, that Druidiſm was the religion of the natives of this iſland when firſt diſcovered; but we have no traces remaining of their religious labours in this county, excepting on Bardon-hill, of which I dare not give an opinion.

When the world was peopled by the deſcendants of Noah, they, doubtleſs, in every country, preſerved ſome of the religious doctrines taught in his day. The Druidical tenets were thoſe of ſimplicity and energy, marked with ſtrong traits of that Patriarch's devotion: they had GOD in view, and they had their ſacrifices to appeaſe his anger. They held their religious meetings under the moſt ancient and venerable oak-trees, as being the immediate reſidence of GOD; and their rude temples were built in groves and ſhady places, in the form of an orb, which were conſecrated to the ſervice of the Almighty.

" Here on the throne the parent chief * appear'd,
A prince, a ſov'reign, judge, by all rever'd.
Supreme in office, as in power he rul'd,
Tam'd their rude paſſions; check'd, o'eraw'd, controul'd.

* Chief Druid.

What time for council or for aid they came,
He heard indulgent each ſucceſſive claim;
As with a father's care their wants ſupply'd,
Nor view'd the ſuppliant's meek approach with pride;
But, juſt to each, with pleas'd and chearful mind,
Sent ſome rejoicing back, and all reſign'd.
He ſhew'd the climes where Virtue finds her home,
And to their view unveil'd a life to come.
O happy race, untaught to feel annoy,
Their days in freedom ſpent, their nights in joy;
On earth's wide common left at large to roam,
Their parent Nature, and the world their home *!"

Our religious remains in Leiceſter, or the accounts of thoſe now no more, were buildings raiſed by the diſciples and followers of Chriſt's doctrine, excepting that venerable ruin called *Jewry Wall*, or the Temple of Janus, noticed early in theſe pages, which has long baffled the enquiry and the penetration of the moſt learned Antiquaries.

A brief account of the Churches in Leiceſter and their number are in a MS. in the Cottonian Library, (*Incipit Matriculus Domini Hugh Epiſcopi Lincoln, de omnibus Eccleſiis in Archidiaconatu de Leyceſtria*, 1220) with which I have prefaced, reſpectively, my accounts of the Churches; the Religious Houſes and Hoſpitals I have placed nearly in the ſucceſſion they were founded. The names of churches ſtanding in 1220, by that account, were St. Mary, St. Nicholas, St. Clement, St. Leonard, All-Saints, St. Michael, St. Martin, St. Peter, Chapel of St. Sepulchre, and St. Margaret, nine in number.

" In Civitate Leyceſtriæ.

Eccleſiæ *Sanctæ Mariæ de Caſtello*, patronus abbas Sanctæ Mariæ de Pratis, habens eam in proprios uſus, a fundatione canonicorum, totam exceptis ob-

* Fane of the Druids.

lationibus et obventionibus altaris, quæ deputatæ ſunt VII clericis deſervientibus in eadem in propriis perſonis, qui etiam debent de ſuis portionibus duos capellanos miniſtrantes exhibere in eadem, et exceptâ tertiâ parte garbarum de tribus carucatis terræ, quas percipit abbas Sancti Ebrulfi ab antiquo. Portio abbatis valet circiter LX ſolidos."

The Church of St. Mary,

As a building, can neither be diſtinguiſhed by the appellation of chaſte or beautiful: it is the patch-work of a variety of periods, occaſioned by its numberleſs viciſſitudes of fortune: in war it invariably ſuffered with the caſtle; and in peace its battered walls have been raiſed up again as invariably by thoſe noble earls, who made the caſtle ſometimes a place of defence, and at other times their palace.

The chancel of this church is Saxon, perhaps the fineſt remains of that period in the county. (See plate, page 7, fig. 6). Within and without, the teſtimonials of its age are pure, ſtrong, and convincing (*a*).

In compiling the hiſtory of ſuch churches as we have in Leiceſter, the writer meets with but few of thoſe helps which are ſo uſeful from ancient records in writing the hiſtory of cathedrals, nor indeed can the information be of that importance. Mr. Carte, the vicar of St. Martin's, however, has left us a ſmall manuſcript reſpecting the churches of Leiceſter, which I have found uſeful.

"There was afore the Conqueſt (ſays Leland) a collegiate church of prebendes intra Caſtrum; the landes whereof gyven by Robert

(*a*) Some writers have contended that the remains which are generally ſtyled Saxon are of Norman origin, and that the former built their religious edifices of wood, ſtraw, and ſtubble, or of materials as little capable of reſiſting time. That the Normans ſurpaſſed, in many inſtances, the Saxons as to ſtyle and elegance of architecture, may be allowed; but durability and ſimplicity was the characteriſtic of ages in this iſland long before the Conqueſt. It cannot be a matter of wonder that ſo few remains are to be found now in Britain of the early ages, when we recollect the ſucceſſion of diſaſters which followed the invaſion of Julius Cæſar. Not only new laws were enforced, but the arts and ſciences were taught by new rules in almoſt every ſucceeding age.

Boſſue,

Boſſue, erle of Leiceſtre, to the abbey of chanons, made by him without the walles. A new chirch of the reſidew of the old prebendes was erected without the caſtle, and dedicated to St. Marie as the olde was (*a*)."

Robert de Bellomont, earl of Mellent, after he had obtained the earldom of Leiceſter of Henry the Firſt, among his acts of mercy, for the health of his ſoul, rebuilt the church of our Lady within the caſtle (*b*), placing therein ſecular canons, reſtoring to them all the poſſeſſions given or belonging to that church, and beſtowing more from his own bounty (*c*); the chief of which, it ſeems, was ſix carucates of land near the North bridge, with eight dwellings. In another part of Leiceſter he gave three virgates and three oxgangs, and ſix pounds rent iſſuing yearly out of that town, confirming to the canons the churches of Allhallows, St. Peter, and St. Martin. For their better ſupport, he gave alſo the church of Lileburn, with the lands and tythes, and three pounds yearly rent out of the lordſhip. He alſo gave them three carucates of land, and the mill at the North bridge, for cloathing of ſick people in their charge; and alſo five carucates on the North ſide of the town, with the churches of the ſoke of Sheepeſeved and Halſo (*d*). Agreeable with the cuſtoms of the times, theſe and other pious acts he did for the health of the ſouls of William the Conqueror, and Maud his queen; William Rufus, Henry the Firſt, and his queen, and their children; alſo for the ſouls of Roger de Bellomont, his father, and Adelina his wife; his own, and that of Elizabeth his wife, and thoſe of his children. Henry, earl of Warwick, his brother, and Albreda his ſiſter, and the ſouls of all the faithful deceaſed.

His ſon Robert, who was the founder of the abbey, transferred many of the good deeds of his father from this church, to that re-

(*a*) The beautiful collegiate church which ſtood oppoſite Trinity hoſpital.
(*b*) Knighton. (*c*) Mon. Angl. (*d*) Rot. 5 H. III.

ligious ſanctuary; but, not willing to deſtroy all his father's good intentions, placed in it eight canons, whereof one was a dean, and endowed them with the oblations, &c. Theſe continued to the general diſſolution (*a*). There ſtill remains in the veſtry chamber a cheſt called an arch, in which there is a convenience for hanging their ſeveral veſtments; if I recollect right, ſeven in number, formed ſomething like fire-cranes.

One of the canons was vicar of the pariſh, and inſtituted by the biſhop, till 1400, when it was ordained, by the conſent of the biſhop, that hereafter, whoever was made dean, ſhould be vicar: the dean was appointed by the abbot. The charges attendant on this church were paid partly by the pariſhioners, and partly by the dean(*b*). The chapel of St. Sepulchre *extra muros* belonged to the canons of St Mary.

Mr. Carte enumerates ſome of the deans from an old church-warden's book ſince loſt. *Thomas Derby* was dean from 1488 to 1514. *Sir John Pegſale* to 1520. Mr. Peccal to 1521, and Ralph Cockley to the diſſolution. The vicars recorded are, Richard Norman, 1602. Jaſſon Clarke, 1603. Joſiah Bond died vicar in 1678. Mr. Fox was preſented in 1709. Thomas Pocklington in 1737. John Simmonds died in 1778. His ſucceſſor was the preſent Mr. Robinſon.

It appears that, in Leland's time, in the college, within the pariſh church of St. Mary, there were only ſeven reſident prieſts; and that the vicar had a penſion of 8l. per annum, on account of the diſſolution of the monaſtery; "and hath no other profytts but only hys manſion houſe, and a little garden ſet upon the Weſt part of the ſaid

(*a*) Carte. (*b*) Ibid. Decanus et cæteri canonici inſtituendi ſunt per abbatem; vicarius inſtituendus eſt per epiſcopum, qui ſolebat habere de nobis ad ſuſtentationem ſuam 26s. 8d. ſed illud mutatum eſt ex aſſenſu et conſilio epiſcopi Lincoln. Et ordinatum eſt per abbatem et conventum, A. D. 1400. quod quicunque de cætero erit decanus vel ſacriſta, ipſe idem erit et vicarius; et habebit ſuſtentationem ſuam duas portiones. Sic ſolebat habere eum 20s. de ſcaccario, &c."

college, next to Gunne dyke." The revenues of the college being demiſed to Edward Holt, Eſq. by Queen Elizabeth, and at length by her granted, with other things, to the corporation of Leiceſter, in fee-farm, made the vicars, in ſome meaſure, dependant upon the corporation; for they being entitled to all the profits the dean and canons enjoyed, had conſequently the church-yard, ſmall tithes, and offerings, which in other places belong to the vicar. At different periods, however, they have added ſomething to the income of the living, during pleaſure, among which is 10l. annually.

The late Mr. Bickerſtaff, who was curate of St. Mary's pariſh ſome time, has left ſome notes reſpecting this church. He obſerves, that in the South aile there is a cloſet formed with loop-holes, which looks into the church-yard, called *Little Eaſe*, ſuppoſed, he ſays, to have been a place of diſcipline. It was certainly nothing more than a narrow paſſage leading to the rood-loft. The Saxon-painted floor-tiles, which he notices, lying in the chancel, are about four inches and a quarter over. I have ſeen ſeveral churches in the county which retain the remains of this ſort of flooring. The letter M, which appear on ſome of them, he conceived was the initial of *Municipium*, the borough; and the L, for Leiceſter. The diſcovery of a pewter plate, ſome years ago, in opening a grave in the chancel, "jagged like a glory," was conjectured, he tells us, to have been "charged with ſalt," on the breaſt of the deceaſed, and forgotten to be drawn thence.

Very little painted glaſs remains in the windows of the churches in Leiceſter. In the chancel of this are three lions, the arms of England.

Mr. Carte obſerves, that this church was parochial at the time it was collegiate, and that the South aile was built by John of Gaunt: it is thirty-three feet broad within the walls. The porter of the caſtle's houſe joins the church, and has a room that looks into it, and, in fact, is within the church.

Mr.

Mr. Carte further informs us, that there was a ſolemn proceſſion from this church annually to St. Margaret's, in which the image of the Virgin Mary was carried under a canopy, borne by four perſons, with a quinſtrel, harp, and other muſic before her; and twelve perſons repreſenting the twelve apoſtles, each of them bearing the name of the apoſtle whom he repreſented, written in parchment, fixed in his bonnet. Alſo there were four perſons bearing banners, with the virgins of the pariſh attending. At St. Margaret's church, among other oblations, were two pair of gloves, one for God, and the other for St. Thomas of India.

Mr. Carte further informs us, that, before the diſſolution, the veſtments, altar-cloaths, &c. were hallowed in the abbey, for which a ſmall fee was paid; and that in St. Anne's chapel, under the veſtry, was an altar, and ſeveral images, and three tables of alabaſter.

In the church the high altar had a lamp before it, and candleſticks, with a canopy. The images were the Rood, and another crucifix, Mary and John, the Virgin Mary, St. James, St. Hugo, St. George, &c. a repreſentation of the Holy Trinity, and another of the five wounds, before which was a light burning. The image of the Virgin Mary was cloathed, with a crown on its head, and placed in a tabernacle, with a candleſtick and light before it, and a table repreſenting her coronation.

At the Eaſt end of the South aile was that called the great choir, otherwiſe Trinity choir; in this there were new deſks made in 1495, with little images before them. The ſame year the ſtone of Lord Haſtings's arms were placed in the South wall of the nave of the church, where it now remains.

In the great South aile, at the Eaſt end, called Trinity Choir, was founded a gild, or fraternity, called Trinity Gild, by Sir Richard Sacheverell,

Sacheverell, knight, and the good Lady Hungerford (*a*). The gild uſed to make four gatherings in the year of the brethren and ſiſters belonging to it in the church, for defraying the expences of it, which conſiſted chiefly in the wages for the prieſt and feaſt, the chief of which was held on Trinity Sunday (a dinner), and a ſupper at night, and breakfaſt next morning, when the officers gave up their accompts, and new ones were choſen.

The accompt of Mr. John Whatton, ſteward, and John Chamberlain, and Richard Morgan, wardens, in 1508, has the following prices for various articles bought in for the feaſt that year.

A dozen of ale coſt 20d. A fat wether 2s. 4d. Seven lambs 7s. Fourteen goſlings 4s. 8d. Fifteen capons 5s. Three quarters of charcoal 15d. Half a quarter of malt 2s. A buſhel of wheat meal and a peck 22d. Fourteen geeſe 4s. 3d. Twelve capons 4s. Two load of wood 22d. Four gallons of milk 4d. A pig 5d.

In 1514 Lady Mary Hungerford, and Sir Richard Sacheverell, knight, were preſent at the dinner, and gave 20l. to the ſtock. A table was ordered to be made, with the names of all the brethren and ſiſters quick and dead, and was to ſtand on the Trinity altar. Mr. William Wigſtone was preſent at the accompts paſſing in 1518, and 1519; which laſt year, Richard Brookſby, dean of Haſtings, and chaplain to Henry VIII. was choſen ſteward (*b*).

This church has ſuffered much from the warring elements, as well as from the wars of men. In 1757, the day on which admiral Byng ſuffered, a tempeſtuous wind blew out one of the windows of the ſpire; and otherwiſe ſo damaged it, that it was neceſſarily new-lined with brick, and bound in many places with iron hoops, at the ex-

(*a*) Lady Hungerford was daughter and heir of Sir Thomas Hungerford, ſon of Robert, ſon of Walter Lord Hungerford, and was married to Edward Lord Haſtings, who died Nov. 8, 22 Henry VII, leaving iſſue, by her, George, the firſt earl of Huntingdon. She married afterwards Sir Richard Sacheverell, who died 25 Henry VIII. and both he and his lady were buried in the church of the Newark. (*b*) Carte.

pence

pence of 110l. In June 1763, the ſteeple was ſtricken with lightning, and afterwards repaired at the expence of 80l. In the thunder ſtorm, July 10, 1783, the lightning ſtruck one of the higheſt ſteeple windows, and ſplit the ſtone-work down to the battlements; in conſequence, it was obliged to be wholly taken down, and it was rebuilt at the expence of 245l. 10s. excluſive of the old materials; other collateral expences 46l. The dimenſions and form of the new ſteeple was made to correſpond nearly with the old one. The ſubjoined engraving was copied from a drawing I made of the old ſteeple the morning after it was damaged, which I publiſhed the ſame year, dedicated to the Right Rev. Father in God Thomas then Lord Biſhop of Lincoln.

The church of St. Mary is handſomely pewed, and has five deep-toned bells.

An evening lecture was founded here in 1778, by Mr. Joſeph Wheatley, a pariſhioner (*a*).

The interments in this church, which are moſt worthy notice, follow:

Leland, who viſited it, ſays, "I ſaw the tomb in marble, of Thomas Rider, father to maſter Richard Rider, of Leiceſter. This Richard I take to be the ſame that yn thoſe days, as apperith by his workes, was a greate clerke. Beſides this grave I ſaw few things of ancient memorie within this chirch."

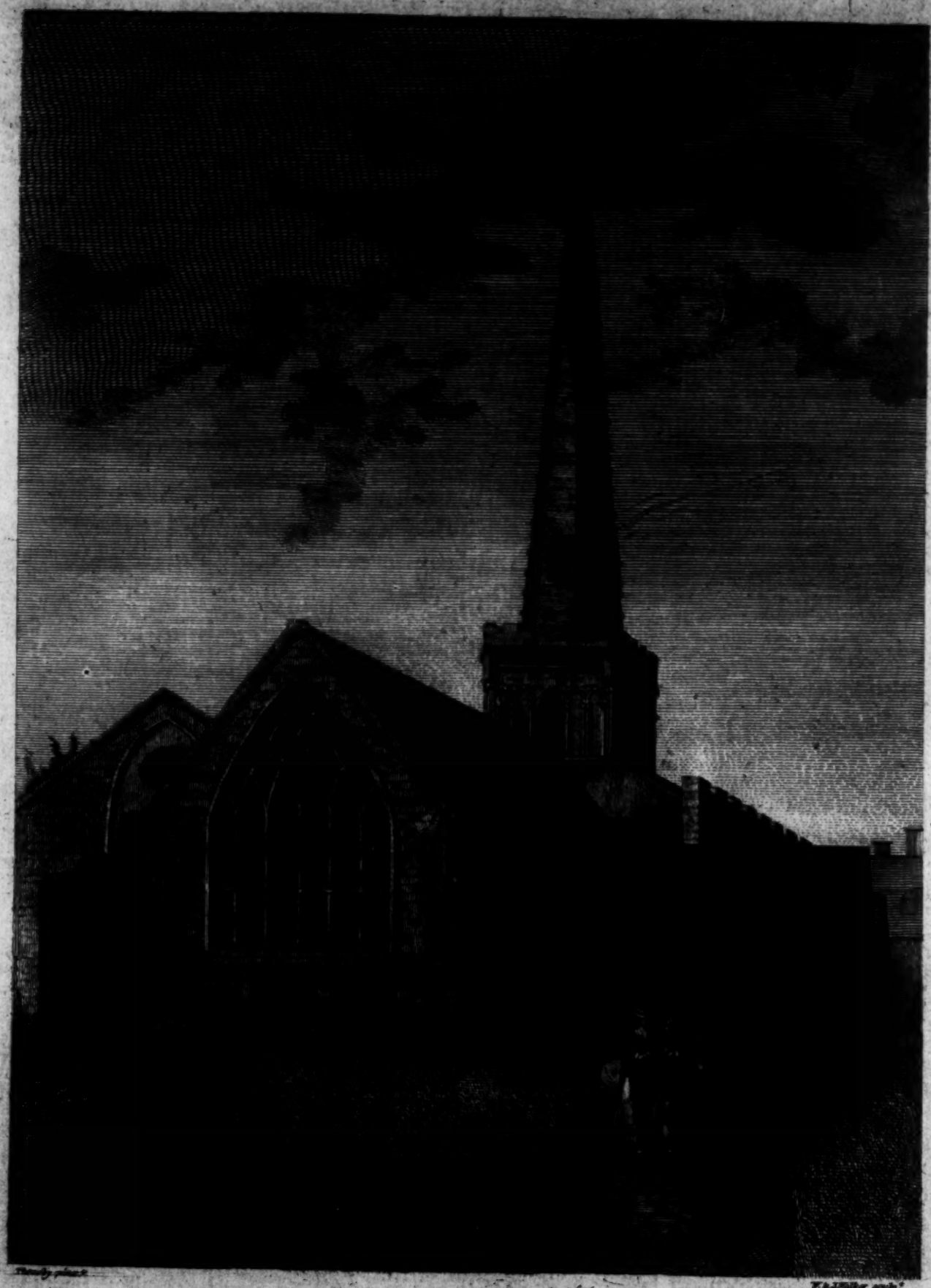
Burton notices theſe.

"Hic jacet Johannes Rudinges de Waſtcoate, et Jocoſa ejus; qui Johannes obiit 1543."

"Hic jacet Richardus Rudinges, arm. qui obiit 8 Oct. 1582."

(*a*) In this church is a table which notices the beneſactions to the poor, which in general are ſmall ſums of money to be given chiefly in bread. One ſays, "part of the gift of King Charles the Firſt, out of forty acres of land in Leiceſter foreſt, to every poor houſe-keeper 5s. 4d. The earl of Devonſhire's gift for each poor houſekeeper, being a freeman, 6s. the gift being 6l."

And,



Thresby pinxt. W. h. Miller sculp.t

S.t MARY LEICESTER,

Representing its Spire as it appeared after it was split by Lightning
July 10.th 1783.

Published by J. Thresby, Leicester July 1.st 1792, & Sold by W. Miller N.o 6 Ludgate St. London.


G.R. III.
BRITISH MUSEUM

And, "In this church lies buried the virtuous lady, and moſt worthy of all honour, Mabele, late wife of Sir Henry Haſtings, knight, ſonne of Sir Edward Haſtings, knight, third ſonne of Francis earle of Huntingdon. She was daughter to Anthony Faunt of Foſton, in this countie of Leiceſter, Eſq. and departed this life 1619."

The Harl. MSS. preſerve,

"Leonardus Danett, de Danetts Hall, ob. 1582."

"Richardus Rudinge, de Weſt Cots . . . . ."

"Mahlers de la Hay, uxor Joh'is Rudinge . . . . ."

"Jocoſa, uxor Thome, ob. 20 Maii 1584."

Mr. Bickerſtaff notices a ſtone that lay near the pulpit ſtairs:

"Orate pro a'i'a dni Joh'is Boroughe, q'ndam huj' eccl'iæ p'bendar', ac gardiani de Sapcote, cuj' a'i'æ miſereat' Deus. Amen."

Another old ſtone bears a tall broad croſs, a Bible on its right hand, on its left a chalice, at its foot,

"Orate pro a'i'a dni . . . . . ."

Others moſtly remaining are:

"Here lies the body of Capt. John Phillips, of Huntingdonſhire, who, being wounded in Naſeby fight, in the cauſe of the glorious king and martyr Charles the Firſt, died there July 8, 1645."

Hugh Watts, ſon and heir of Hugh Watts, Gent. is remembered in lines the moſt loving, and in praiſe extravagant, by his dear wife: they thus begin:

"*Dignum laude virum Muſa vetat mori.*

"Her generous male his noble female twines
Still with her arms, and thus her ſaint enſhrines
In liquid marble of immortal lines."

He died in 1656, aged 45.

"Joſiah Bond, hujus eccleſiæ per 19 annos elapſos myſta ſedulus. Quodque ſui mortale fuit, hic depoſuit Sept. 26, 1678, ætat. ſuæ 49."

"Richard Mawſon, Gent. who was governor of the Magazine in the Newark 55 years, died in 1715, aged 79."

The imitation of the following, by Mr. Bickerſtaff, on a child a day old, is worth preſerving.

" Hic jacet
Quod mori potuit
Henrici Gilberti Cooper,
Infantis deſideratiſſimi,
Filii natu maximi
Joannis Gilberti Cooper,
De Thurgarton in agro Notting. Arm.
Et Suſannæ uxoris ejus.
Natus 25 die Jul. denatus 26 anno 1749.

" Atavis erat editus antiquis,
Nulla alia in re claruit,
Nec potuit.

" Floſculus enim in ipſa quoque dulci, ætatulæ
Prima gemma pullulaturus,
Parcarum heu parcere neſciarum
Fatali afflatu contactus,
Exaruit.

" Mœſtus itaque & mœrens pater ipſius
Clariſſimi infantuli ſui memoriæ
Hoc etſi inane munus,
Amoris monumentum
Collocavit."

" Beneath doth lie,
Of Henry Gilbert Cooper,
All that could die,
The prettieſt, deareſt, ſweeteſt babe,
That ever dropt into the grave,
This lovely boy,
His dad's firſt joy,
Was ſon of 'ſquire John,
And Sue his wife,
Who led their life
In town called Thurgarton.

" Deſcended from an ancient line,
This charming child began to ſhine,
The twenty-fifth of July;
And that was all that he could boaſt,
For ſuddenly his life was loſt,
The twenty-ſixth, good truly.

" This floret pretty,
Though young yet witty,
Juſt opening from the bud;
A blighting blaſt from angry Fate,
Who knows not how to ſpare the Great,
Nipt up his vital blood.

" The ſorrowing father cried, and ſaid,
Alas! my only child is dead;
Though vain, a monument I'll raiſe,
His memory to adore,
To ſhew my love and ſound his praiſe,
Till time ſhall be no more."

Richard Ludlam died in 1728, aged 48. William Cheſhire, ſon of John Cheſhire, M. D. died in 1758, aged 32. John Cheſhire, M. D. died in 1762, aged 67. Thomas Gee, miniſter at the Great Meeting, died in 1729, aged 43 (*a*).

A neat

(*a*) Mr. Bickerſtaff relates a ſtory, upon the authority of his mother, that the Preſbyterian meeting-houſe, prior to the building of the preſent one, ſtood in Bonner's lane, near the horſe-pool; and that ſome young men, on a certain day, out of a frolic, conveyed into the clerk of the meeting's

A neat monument remembers the Honourable Sir Lawrence Carter, who died in 1744, aged 73, noticed particularly in page 183. Another remembers Thomas Staveley, Esq. See page 178.

Some of the old ſtones are covered by the pews of the church, which deſerve notice; among which is that of Dr. Richard Maſon, who died at Leiceſter, and was maſter of the Requeſts to King Charles the Firſt, and at the Reſtoration was created M. D. by royal mandate. He died at Leiceſter in 1668 (*b*).

Near the altar is an inſcription for archdeacon Rogers, by marriage nearly allied to the family of Ruding, at Weſtcotes, near Leiceſter.

" Hic
Felicem preſtolantes Reſurrectionem
Deponuntur exuviæ
Reverendi Viri
JOHANNIS ROGERS, A. M.
Archidiaconi Leiceſtrienſis,
Rectoris de Segrave,
olim Coll. Divi Johannis apud Oxon. Socii,
comis, benefici, pii, pervigilis,
inter
bonorum gemitus, ſuorum queremonias,
Eccleſiæ deſideria pauperum efflagitationes,
è mediis
laboribus et malis

meeting's deſk, where was uſually placed the hymn to be ſung during the ſervice, the old ſong, " God proſper long our noble king, &c." The clerk prepared to ſing at the uſual time, took the paper and gave out " God proſper long our noble king, our lives and ſafeties all." Very, very good, Simon!" exclaimed Mr. Gee; but when he proceeded to " A woeful hunting there did once," the miniſter called out, " Hold, hold, Simon, no hunting!"

(*b*) Richard Maſon, his ſon, was a mercer in Leiceſter when princeſs Anne, on her father's abdication in 1688, was conducted by the duke of Dorſet through that town to Nottingham, with a guard, ſuch as might alarm the populace as they paſſed with falſe apprehenſions for her danger. Mr. Maſon's grey mare had the honour of carrying her highneſs, no other being to be procured at Leiceſter, that was thought ſafe to carry the princeſs and her guide. Mr. Maſon was a very corpulent man; and the mare, which was remarkably ſtout, uſed to kneel till its maſter mounted. Mr. Maſon's coffin was ſo large, that it was let down from a one-pair of ſtairs window. *Leiceſterſhire Collections.*

mortalium vel optimos obſidentibus,
ad
emeritorum otia,
pluſquam victorum triumphos
conſummatorum beatitudines evocati
nonis Maii,
Anno { Salutis 1715,
Ætatis 65."

This church continues to be the burying-place of the following reſpectable families, *Ruding*, *Watts*, *Carter*, *Ludlam*, and others, who reſide in and near Leiceſter.

It has a nave and two ſide ailes. The South aile, it is ſaid, was built by John of Gaunt: it is 33 feet broad within the walls.

Patron of the living is the king: value in the king's books 8l. Bacon ſays, clear yearly value 12l. It is computed to be worth about 70l. per annum, with ſurplice-fees and a ſubſcription from the pariſhioners.

At the diſſolution it was returned to the commiſſioners to be worth 23l. 12s. 1d. in ſpiritualities and temporalities annually.

Particulars reſpecting the ſeveral pariſhes are placed in the preſent ſtate of the town.

THE COLLEGIATE CHURCH,

in the Newark, I notice next, it being, as it were, a member of St. Mary's above deſcribed.

This beautiful little church, once the admiration of all ſtrangers who paſſed through Leiceſter, was founded by a noble Plantagenet. Henry, created Earl of Derby in his father's life-time, and who ſucceeded at that prince's death to the titles of Duke of Lancaſter, and Earl of Lancaſter, has the reputation of being its founder, although I rather think this church, and Trinity Hoſpital alſo, was raiſed from the good intentions of both. It was built, however, in honour of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary.

The

The collegiate church was ſituate in the garden of Mr. John Coltman's houſe, in the Newark, formerly that of Baron Carter (*a*). Before it was finiſhed, the founder had been in France, about the year 1352, where the Monarch of that country offered him any of the rarities of the place as a preſent. The crown of Jeſus, with which he had been degraded at his crucifixion, had, it was believed, been brought into France about a century before, and then the property of the king. From this precious relic the founder requeſted a thorn, which he brought thence, and placed in this church near the altar, upon a kind of candleſtick-ſocket of pure gold (*b*).

In 1355, April the 9th, the ſtatutes being ratified and confirmed, the firſt dean, Richard Hanſlape, and the prebendaries, were admitted. But it appears that it was not quite finiſhed even in 1400; for Henry the Fourth, in that year, gave a commiſſion to John Byngham, Robert Skyllington, John Horninghold, and Thomas Whyebred, to provide workmen and materials to perfect what was wanting.

In the collegiate church were a dean, twelve prebendaries, thirteen vicars choral, three clerks, ſix choriſters, and one verger; the ſame held the office of porter of the college. He was alſo to ſerve Almighty God in the choir and the Bede houſe (the old Hoſpital).

The benefactions to this place were ſplendid and numerous. It poſſeſſed alſo a valuable library of books and MSS. to which Thomas Langley, Biſhop of Durham, gave in the year 1346, before its completion, many books. In the reign of Henry the Sixth, in a proviſo, occurs this clauſe: "Provided the ſeide petition, or act of reſumption, ſtreeche not nor extende to the graunt made by us to the dean and chanons of the church collegiate of our lady of Leyceſtr', and their ſucceſſors, of a tunne of wynne granted to theym by us, to be taken and perceyved yerely, by the hands of oure Boteller of England

(*a*) The collegiate chirch of Newarke, and the area of it, yonith to another peace of the caſtelle ground, the college chirch is not very great, but it is exceeding fair. *Leland.*

(*b*) In the ſucceeding ſection the Plantagenets, earls of Leiceſter, are particularly noticed.

for

for the tyme being, or his depute, in our port of Kyngeſton uppon Hull, of the wyne, yat ſhall be taken and ſurveyed in the ſeide port for us, conſideryng that they hadde never no wyne graunted to theym by us, nor none of our progenitores, afore this tyme, to ſing with, nor otherwiſe (*a*)."

John of Gaunt, by his will, bearing date, Leiceſter Caſtle, 1397, gave, among other legacies to the new Collegiate Church, his red veſtment of velvet, embroidered with golden ſuns, with all the apparel belonging to the ſaid veſtment, and with it all his miſſals and other books (which were for the uſe of Saliſbury cathedral), belonging to his chapel, not otherwiſe deviſed.

Thomas Duke of Clarence, by will dated July 10, 1417, appointed that his executors ſhould purchaſe the patronage of a church of forty marks a year value, and procure the ſame to ſupport two fitting prieſts to celebrate divine ſervice for the ſouls of his father and mother, himſelf, and Margaret his wife, his anceſtors, and all the faithful deceaſed.

William, lord Haſtings, covenanted with the heads of this college, that, whenever he ſhould die, they would keep a ſpecial obit for him in the church for ever.

Within this church was founded a chantry by Lady Mary Harvey, one by John of Gaunt Duke of Lancaſter, and another was called Beddel's.

William Wigſton, jun. founded alſo a chantry within this church, in the reign of Henry the Seventh; and he alſo conditioned with the brethren of this college to keep a ſpecial obit for his ſoul after death.

A ſurvey of all the houſes belonging to the ſaid college of Leiceſter, ſituate and being within the walls and precincts of the ſame, ut inferius:

Imprimis, the dean's houſe, with an orchard and garden thereto belonging, valued by the year ——— ——— xlſ̃.

(*a*) Parliamentary Rolls, 1450.

The

The twelve canons houſes.

Sir Richard Paget's houſe, with a garden, worth, per annum	xxvis. viiid.
Sir Nicholas Bradſhaw's houſe, with a garden	xxvis. viiid.
Sir Anthony Skevington's houſe, with a garden	xxvis. viiid.
Sir William Weſton's houſe and garden, valued, per annum	xxvis. viiid.
Sir Richard Bawdwyn's houſe and garden	xxvis. viiid.
Sir Richard Fowler's houſe and garden	xxvis. viiid.
Sir Chriſtopher Marſhall's houſe and garden	xxvis. viiid.
Sir John Vincent's houſe and garden	xxvis. viiid.
Sir John Leigh's houſe and garden	xxvis. viiid.
Sir Gabriel Raynes's houſe and garden	xxvis. viiid.
Sir Edward Burton's houſe and garden	xxvis. viiid.
Sir William Gyllot's houſe and garden	xxvis. viiid.
Summa	xvii.

The Chantry houſes.

The manſion houſe of Duke John a Gaunt's chantry, per annum	xs.
The manſion houſe of Mr. Wigſton's chantry, per annum	xs.
The manſion houſe of Elvett's and Harvye's chantry, per annum	xs.
The lodging between the Yates	xxs.
The lodging between the church and great ſteeple, per annum	vs.
Summa	lvs.

Infra circuit' Willielmi Ryggs, auditoris.

It appears that the then members of it were the dean Robert Bone, Sir Richard Paget, Sir Nicholas Bradſhaw, Sir Anthony Skevington, Sir William Weſton, Sir Richard Bawdwyn, Sir Richard Fowler, Sir Chriſtopher Marſhall, Sir John Vincent, Sir John Leigh, Sir Gabriel Raynes, Sir Edward Burton, Sir William Gyllot, canons; whereof the dean's ſalary or ſtipend was 40l. and his houſe, garden, and orchard, valued at 40s. a year. Each of the canon's ſtipend was 13l. 6s. 8d. and their houſes 26s. 8d. a year. The ſtipend of the thirteen vicars was to each 4l. 13s. 4d. &c. There were five chantries founded in the church, viz. 1. John of Gaunt's, of two chaplains, William Blackwell and Thomas Marſhall; their joint ſalary was 13l. 6s. 8d. and their

houſe 10s. a year; 2. The lady Mary Harvey's of one prieſt, William Wilſon, who had 5l. 6s. 8d.; 3. Elvett's, of one prieſt, who had 5l. 6s. 8d.; theſe two had one houſe, 10s. a year; 4. William Wigſton's, of two prieſts, John Hardy and Humphry Gyllot, alias Ellyot, who had between them 14l. and a houſe 10s. a year; 5. Beddel's chantry, of one prieſt, Richard Waterworth, of 4l. 6s. 8d. a year. The lodging between the gates was valued at 20s. and the lodging between the church and the great ſteeple at 5s. a year. Athough this ſurvey was taken 31 Hen. VIII. yet this college was not at that time diſſolved, for Robert Boone, alias Bone, the dean, was ſummoned to the convocation 1 Ed. VI. 1547, Nov. 5, which was about a year before the diſſolution.

In 1553, March 1, an account being taken of the penſions payable to the members of ſuch religious houſes as were diſſolved, it was reported that eight of the prebendaries, viz. John Leigh, William Gillot, John Vincent, Richard Fowler, Chriſtopher Marſhall, William Weſton, William Pachet, and Nicholas Bradſhaw, had each of them 10l. a year; eight vicars had 6l. each. As for the dean and the prebendaries not mentioned in this report, it is preſumed that they were dead, or diſpoſed of in ſome preferment before this time. *Leiceſterſhire Collect.*

We have accounts of the following notable interments within this collegiate church; ſome of whoſe remains, it is probable, have been diſcovered at various times in digging about the premiſes of Mr. Coltman's houſe. Very lately ſome human bones have been found in the garden of his houſe. Leland ſays,

"There lyith on the north ſide of the high altare, Henry, erle of Lancaſter, without a crounet, and two men children, under the arche next to his hedde. On the South ſide lyeth Henry, the firſt Duke of Lancaſter; and yn the next arche to his hedde lyith a lady, by likelihood his wife. Conſtance, daughter to Peter, king of Caſtelle, and wife to John of Gaunt, lyith afore the high altar in a tumbe of marble, with an image of braſſe, like a quene on it. There is a tumbe of marble in the body of the quire. They told me that a counteſs of Derby lay buried in it, and they make her, I wot not how, wife to John of Gaunt, or Henry the Fourth. Indeade, Henry the Fourth, while

while John of Gaunt livid, was caullid erle of Darby. In the chapelle of St. Mary, on the South ſide of the quire, ly buried two of the Shirleys, knights, with their wives, and one Brokeſby, an eſquire. Under a piller yn a chapelle of the South croſſe iſle, lyith the lady Hungerford, and Sacheveral, her ſecunde huſbande. In the Southe ſide of the body of the chirch lyith one of the Bluntes, a knight, with his wife. And in the North ſide of the chirch ly 3 Wigſtons, greate benefactors to the college. One of them was a prebendarie there, and made the free Grammer-ſchole. The cloiſter on the South-weſt ſide of the chirch is large and faire; and the houſes in the compace of the area of the college be ſtately. The rich cardinal of Wincheſter gildid all the floures and knottes in the voulte of the chirch. The large almoſe houſe ſtandith alſo withyn the quadrante of the area of the college (*a*)."

DEANS of this COLLEGE, were,

1. *Richard Hanſtat* 1355. 2. *John Porter* occurs in 1361. 3. *Nicholas Brightwell*, Chancellor of Oxford, in 1388. 4. *Richard Elveden*, in 1408. 5. *William Witham*, Prebendary of Lincoln, Archdeacon of Leiceſter, and Dean of Wells; died Dean in 1472. 6. *William Dudley* ſucceeded, who was made Biſhop of Durham in 1476. 7. *William Chauntre* died dean in 1485. 8. *John Morgan* ſucceeded, and was made Biſhop of St. David's in 1496. 9. *Robert Middleton*, LL.D. died dean in 1499. 10. *William Stockdale* died dean in 1500. 11. *James Whitſton*, LL.D. and Prebend of Banbury, in Lincoln cathedral, died in 1511. 12. *John Young*, LL.D. ſucceeded, and reſigned in 1515. 13. *William Knight*, LL.D. ſucceeded, who afterwards became Biſhop of Bath and Wells. 14. *Robert Boone*, the laſt dean, was admitted in 1522, and died in 1554.

(*a*) Here was buried alſo, according to Leland, Mary Bohun, Counteſs of Hereford, mother to Henry V.

This college was returned by the commiſſioners to be worth 595l. 7s. 4d. annually. Its foundation and remains were finally demoliſhed about the year 1690.

St. Nicholas.

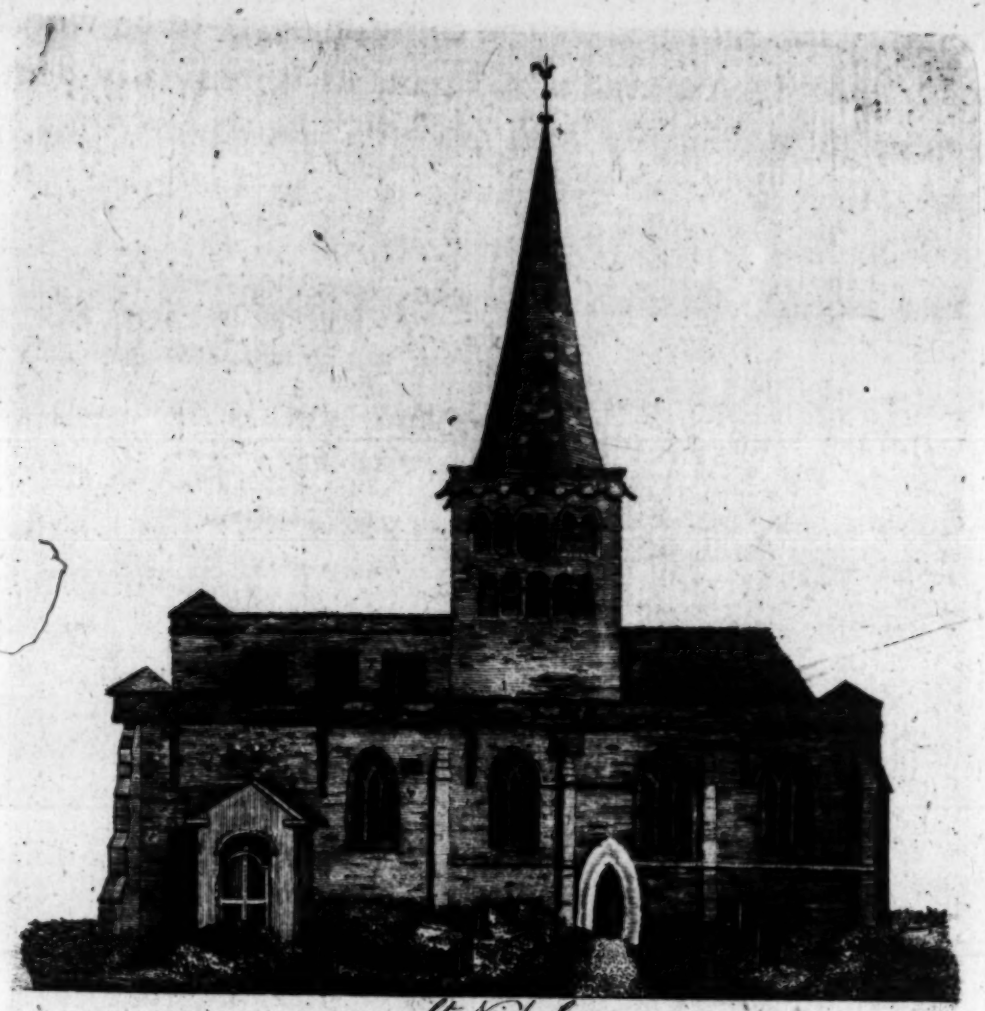
Eccleſiæ Sancti Nicholai patronus idem abbas, habens eam in proprios uſus ab antiquo; et valet 11 marc.'

The church is ſuppoſed to be the oldeſt in Leiceſter: the materials it is built of, I doubt not, are the moſt ancient; but whether it has been built longer than any other, no record teſtifies. It is a plain Gothic building, which formerly conſiſted of three ailes; but in the year 1697, the North aile was taken down, it being found in a ruinous condition, and the pariſh then unable to rebuild it. There is ſcarcely a wall of the church, or in the tower part, but what partakes of kindred materials of Jewry-wall, which adjoins it. Whether that old ruin was part of the Janua of the Roman city, an old Heathen temple, or a Roman Bath, ſure it is that the church was built in ſome meaſure from its ruins (*a*).

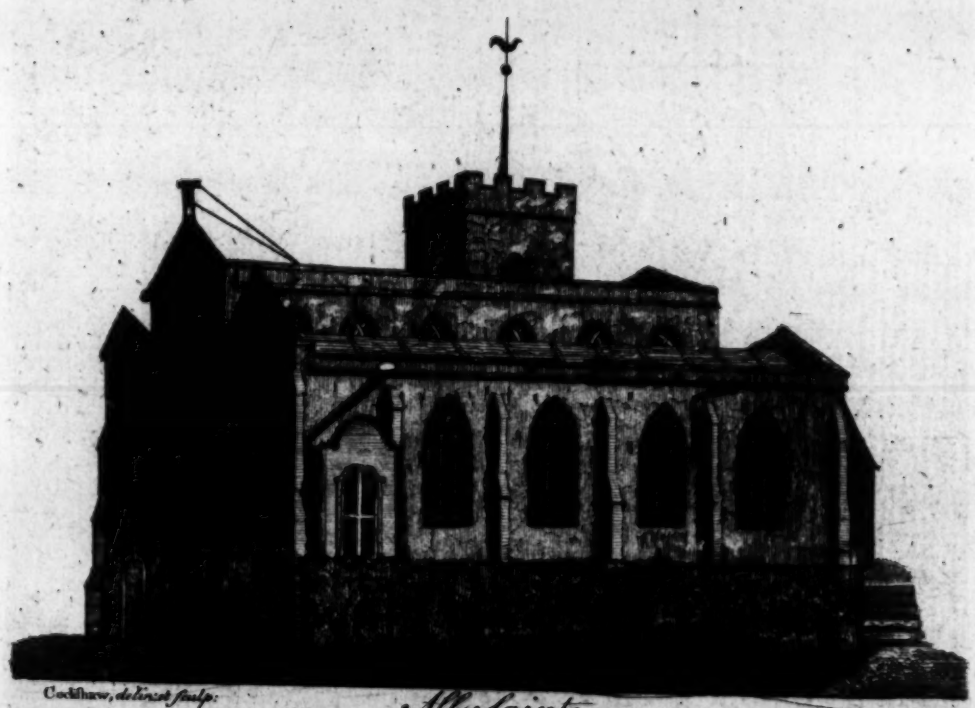
The arches which ſupport the middle aile of the church are low, and the pillars are maſſy. It has no regular chancel, and only three bells; a clock has been added lately. The church, which has been ſome time held by the reſpective vicars of St. Martin and St. Mary, has been latterly ſerved with a regular vicar, to which the liberality

(*a*) I did not, till lately, diſcover that that moſt venerable relic of antiquity, *Jewry-wall*, never extended towards the church more than it now does. It is well worthy the attention of any one, who has been long at a loſs to develope the original uſe of it, to examine it attentively. He will find, in his application to the ſubject, that there is a regular, and the remains of a complete, ſurface, ſo far as could be wrought by foreſt ſtones, in many parts facing the church; with regular layers of Roman tiles, faced equally as perfectly and completely. If he look down the crown of the ruin, from the hut at the South end, or within the hut, where there is another fine arch covered by it, repreſented with the others, page 17, he will at once be convinced of the juſtneſs of this remark, and, perhaps, agree with me, that its appearance makes much for the reſpectable opinion I have been honoured with in my account of Jewry-wall, page 16, that it is the remains of the city gate or bounding wall of the Romans.

of



St. Nicholas.



Cockburn, delin. et sculp.

All Saints.

G.R. III.
BRITISH MUSEUM

of Queen Anne, a benefaction from the corporation, and a ſmall contribution from the pariſhioners, have been ſerviceable.

I have, ſomewhere, I think, ſeen an account of an annual gift of 5l. to the preacher of this church, left by will. And further, I apprehend, that the living has benefited by the will of Tobias Ruſtat, Eſq. keeper of the royal palace of Hampton Court, and yeoman of the robes to Charles the Second (*a*).

" Memorandum—It was agreed upon the 17th day of July, in the yeare of our Lord 1664, betweene Mr. Bonde, miniſter of St. Maryes, in the borough of Leiceſter, and the pariſhioners of St. Nicholas parriſh, in the ſame borough, that the ſaid Mr. Bond ſhall come once every fortnight, on the Sabbath day, and read divine ſervice, according to the canons of the Church of England, and that the ſaid Mr. Bond, either by himſelfe or ſufficient preacher, preach one ſermon every month in the yeare, in the pariſh church of St. Nicholas (*b*)." Beſide this, he was conditioned to adminiſter the ſacrament, and do all other duties of a pariſh miniſter, for which he was to have all the tithes and dues which were uſually paid to their late vicar, Mr. John Angel.

Notable remembrances of the dead, here, are not many.

Thomas Jeſſon, vicar, died in 1614. " Fili Dei, miſerere mei."

Captain Thomas Mawſon, who ſerved Charles the Firſt and Second, died the 11th of April, 1678, aged 64.

Gerrard Andrews, clerk, M. A. late vicar, died the 29th of Feb. 1764. (See page 189).

Vicars of St. Nicholas.

Thomas Jeſſon in 1614. John Angel, about the time of the grand rebellion. Sanderſon in 1739. A Mr. Juxton and Clayton were alſo vicars. Gerrard Andrews died vicar in 1764. Mr. Davenport,

(*a*) This gentleman gave for the augmentation of poor vicarages in Leiceſterſhire, 1245l.
(*b*) Pariſh book.

Maſter of the Free-ſchool in 1765. Mr. Figot, alſo Maſter of the Free-ſchool, reſigned in 1788: to whom ſucceeded Mr. John Anderſon, the preſent vicar.

The living is in the gift of the crown. In the king's book 3l. 11s. 3d. Clear yearly value about 50l. per annum.

St. Clement's.

Eccleſiæ Sancti Clementis patronus idem abbas, quæ vix ſufficit ad ſuſtentationem capellani.

This church has been long deſtroyed. It ſtood, by the information of Mr. Carte, near the North gate, between St. Clement's-lane, which bounds the White Friars, now called Webb's Friars, and the houſes which run parallel with it, oppoſite All Saints Church (*a*).

Mr. Burton informs us that the vicarage was ſo poor, that it was incapable of maintaining a preacher; and that it was probably given to the Friars Preachers near, and ſuffered total deſtruction with that religious houſe.

It was under the patronage of the Abbots of Leiceſter Abbey, as well as the other churches in Leiceſter.

St. Leonard's.

Eccleſiæ Sancti Leonardi patronus idem abbas, habens eam in proprios uſus ab antiquo; et valet 11 marc'.

This little church ſtood at the extremity of the North bridge, and had been rebuilt but a little time before its final deſtruction in the civil wars (*b*). It was deſtroyed, while the parliament's forces kept poſſeſſion of the town, to prevent annoyance from the enemy. No accounts have reached us of any particulars relative to its conſequence. By the church-yard, which is ſtill remaining, its ſize may be imagined to be very ſmall. It remains as a burial ground for the pariſh. The oc-

(*a*) The pariſh, probably, was added to thoſe of All Saints and St. Nicholas. (*b*) Carte.

caſional

caſional duty is done by the officiating miniſter of St. Margaret's, an adjoining pariſh (*a*).

In the church-yard are ſome few grave-ſtones; none of which deſerve particular notice.

This church alſo was under the patronage of the Abbot. In the king's book 6l. Bacon ſays the church is down, and the pariſh is united to All Saints. The pariſh ſtill remains diſtinct, as I obſerved above.

All Saints and St. Peter's.

Eccleſiæ Omnium Sanctorum patronus idem abbas, habens eam in proprios uſus ab antiquo; et valet 11 marc'.

Eccleſiæ Sancti Petri patronus idem abbas, habens eam, &c.

The church of All Saints is a fair ſtructure, built of free-ſtone, and ſtands like no other in the town, partly in the ſtreet. It has three ailes, a good chancel, and five ſmall bells, and is very well pewed. The pillars and arches which ſupport the roof of the middle aile are plain, and rather low. Its age is not aſcertained. On the outſide of this church, towards the ſtreet, is an humble attempt at the clock-work of St. Dunſtan's church, London, where two figures of men ſtrike a bell with clubs, to give the time of the day. There many a country booby gets rid of his money, by the light-fingered gentry, waiting for the motion of wooden figures. In a Weſt window is a modern piece of ſtained glaſs, of inferior merit. In another window is rather curiouſly inſcribed, "*Oluuer Banker*, *Roſe Bynſon*, and *Luys Blakſhyn*," and "*Aiabs*." In Burton's time the arms of Montford, earl of Leiceſter, remained.

The pariſh cheſt contains the inſtrument relative to the uniting the pariſhes of St. Peter and All Saints, by which it appears that William Rudierd, clerk, was preſented to the vicarage of All-Saints, by Queen

(*a*) I have mentioned, page 30, from Domeſday book, the mint-maſters of Leiceſter; the mint for coining was in the pariſh of St. Leonard.

Elizabeth;

Elizabeth; and that by a ſpecial inſtrument he was empowered to hold both the livings for life, or rather under him they were united, previous to the perpetual union; in order to which end, the following petition was made.

"Villa Leiceſtr'. To all Chriſtian people to whom this preſente wrytinge ſhall come, the maior and burgeſſes of the town of Leiceſter, in the county of Leiceſter, and alſo William Rudyarde, clerk, vicare perpetual of the ſaid pariſh of St. Peter's in the ſaid town of Leiceſter, and of the pariſh of All Saints in the ſame town, ſend greeting in the Lord God everlaſting. Whereas the pariſh church of the ſaid pariſh of St. Peter's, in Leiceſter aforeſaid, was many years paſt utterly decayed, the church and vicaridge houſe thereof taken down, and nothing thereof remaining, and while it was ſtanding, had but the portion of five pounds yerely, to the utmoſt value, belonging unto ytt, for the indifferent mayntenance of a mynyſter to ſerve the cure there; and the ſaid pariſh church of All Saints, in the aforeſaid town of Leiceſter, being next thereunto adjoining, hath alſo very ſmall mayntenance, being but of the yearly value of eight pounds at the moſt, the which church of All Saints ys a very fayr, convenyent, and large church, and much coſt thereof of late beſtowed, whereby yt ys able to receyve the inhabitants of both the ſaid pariſhes, as ys manifeſt to the wholl town, where they often doe frequent themſelves, to the heyringe of the preachinge of God's moſt holye worde; in conſideration whereof, we the ſaid maior and burgeſſes of the ſaid town of Leiceſter, and alſo I the ſaid William Rudyarde, clerk, vycar perpetual of both the ſaid pariſhes, have, and by theſe preſents doo give our full, wholl, perfect, and abſolute conſents and aſſents, that the ſaid two pariſhes may be unyted and annexed together into one only church and pariſh, by the name of the pariſh church of All Saints in Leiceſter, according to the ſtatute in that caſe made and provided. In wytnes whereof, wee the aforeſaid maior and burgeſſes of the town of Leiceſter have hereunto our common ſeal of the ſame town; and

alſo

alſo I the ſaid William Rudyarde, clerk, vycar of both the ſaid pariſhes, have hereunto ſette my ſeal and ſubſcribed my name. Dated att the town of Leiceſter aforeſaid, 2d Feb. in the year of the raigne of our ſovereign lady Elizabeth the two and thirtieth."

Under this is written:

"And I William, by God's permiſſion, Bnſhop of Lincoln, in conſideration of the ſmalneſs of the lyvings of the vicarage of St. Peter's and All Saints, in the town of Leiceſter, and other cauſes beforementioned, do think it meet and convenient that the ſaid two pariſhes of St. Peter's and All Saints, ſhould be united into one only church and pariſh, by the name of the pariſh church of All Saints, in Leiceſter; and in witneſs thereof have hereunto ſet mie hand and ſeale, 18 Nov. A. D. 1590."

The queen alſo conſented by her letters patent the 15th of June, in the 36th year of her reign.

St. Peter's pariſh included part of the High Croſs-ſtreet, and lay between All Saints and St. Martin's. At the common hall, for the ſpecial purpoſe of uniting St. Peter's, it was propoſed by ſome to have it united to St. Martin's, and by others as warmly for All Saints.

At the total demolition of the church, the lead, which was taken from it, weighed, by the commiſſioners account, five foder and five hundred pounds. The bells, which were in number 4, weighed, the firſt, 5cwt. 10lb.; the ſecond, 6cwt. 18lb.; the third, 8cwt. 26lb.; and the fourth, or great bell, 11cwt. 16lb. The old materials were given by Queen Elizabeth to the corporation, on condition that they ſhould erect a ſchool-houſe with them, where an old one ſtood before time; and the overplus, if any, was to be employed "in bringing a conduit of freſh water into the town."

The celebrated Catharine Macauley was married to William Graham, Eſq. in All Saints church, in Nov. 1778.

Among

Among the interments worthy notice, is this chaſte Latin epitaph to the memory of a Mr. Thomas, ſome time Maſter of the Free-ſchool.

"Sub hoc ſaxo
Depoſitæ ſunt reliquiæ
GULIELMI THOMAS, A. M.
Scholæ Publicæ hujus burgi
per triginta et quatuor annos
Archididaſcali;
Huic parochiæ per viginti et octo annos,
ſedulo invigilavit.
Maturus cœlo, feliciter in Chriſto obdormivit,
Decembris 6, 1713.
Incorruptam cujus erga omnes Fidem
Nudamque Veritatem,
Egeni Charitatem,
Deo Pietatem,
Merito mirentur Præſentes,
Imitentur Poſteri."

Mathew Simonds, Eſq. is remembered on a monument, who, it ſays, gave legacies to the amount of 98l. 18s. 8d. to charitable uſes, yearly, for ever. He died at the age of 84, A. D. 1714. Mr. John Clark is remembered, who gave a conſiderable ſum of money for the relief of widows and children of poor clergymen. A wooden tablet remembers William Norrice:

"——————— Dead and gonn
Whoſe grave from all the reſt is knowne
By finding out the greateſt ſtone (*a*)."

This ſame Mr. Norrice, we learn by the inſcription, of which the above is a ſpecimen, gave "thrice fifteen groats yearly to All Saints

(*a*) His grave is covered with a rough pebble-ſtone.

poore,"

poore," and five marks to the ſecond maſter of the Free-ſchool, yearly. He ſerved the office of mayor twice, had three wives,

" ——— and had his will
To be entomb'd amongſt them three;
But death, the end of fleſh and blood,
Did wound to death this good old man
Though ninety-ſix years liv'd on earth,
Yet was his life in length a ſpan."

A pretty long one! He died in 1615.

A better thing was on the grave of Joſeph Wright, a gardener, who died in 1678-9, and was buried here.

" My mother Earth, though myſtically curſt,
Hath me, her ſon, moſt bountifully nurſt;
For all my pains, and ſeed on her beſtow'd,
Out of which ſtore that I of her received,
My painfull wantfull brethren I relieved;
And though this mother I full well did love,
I better loved my father that's above;
My mother feeds my body for a ſpace,
My ſoul for aye beholds my father's face."

Here are many grave inſcriptions in this church and church-yard, as well as in many others, which I have neither inclination nor time to copy.

An occurrence happened, ſome years ſince, on placing a grave-ſtone in the church-yard, to the memory of Elizabeth Bracebridge, wife of John Bracebridge, who died in 1774, and to two of their children. The father wrote the inſcription thus for the children, who were both named John, and died infants.

" Both John and John ſoon loſt their lives,
And yet, *By God*, John ſtill ſurvives."

Meaning himſelf.

By God, being an unſeemly expreſſion, it was altered by the order of Biſhop Thurlow, at one of his viſitations, to *thro' God*, John ſtill ſurvives.

In this church-yard ſtands a monument to the memory of Alderman Gabriel Newton. (See page 187.)

Vicars of All Saints.

William Rudierd in 1584. William Thomas in 1685 (*a*). Philip Hacket died in 1735. John Makepeaſe died in 1745. Thomas Haines died in 1786. To him ſucceeded Mr. Joſeph Gregory, the preſent vicar (*b*).

The king is patron of the living. King's book, 4l. 8s. 5d. The clear yearly value about 70l. St. Peter's, in the King's book. 2l. 5s.

St. Michael.

Eccleſiæ ſancti Michaëlis patronus idem abbas, habens eam, &c.

St. Michael's church was ſituate in what are now called the Back-lanes, once a populous part of Leiceſter, but in ſome meaſure demoliſhed in 1173. The church, Mr. Carte was of an opinion, eſcaped that dreadful demolition, for a monk, who was educated under William le Cloune, abbot, in 1345, is ſaid to have turned Anchoret in the church of St. Michael. It was totally demoliſhed ſome time about 1400, and the pariſh united to St. Peter's, conſequently now to All-Saints. Its ſite is known by the church-yard, now in the poſſeſſion of Mr. Cobley (*c*).

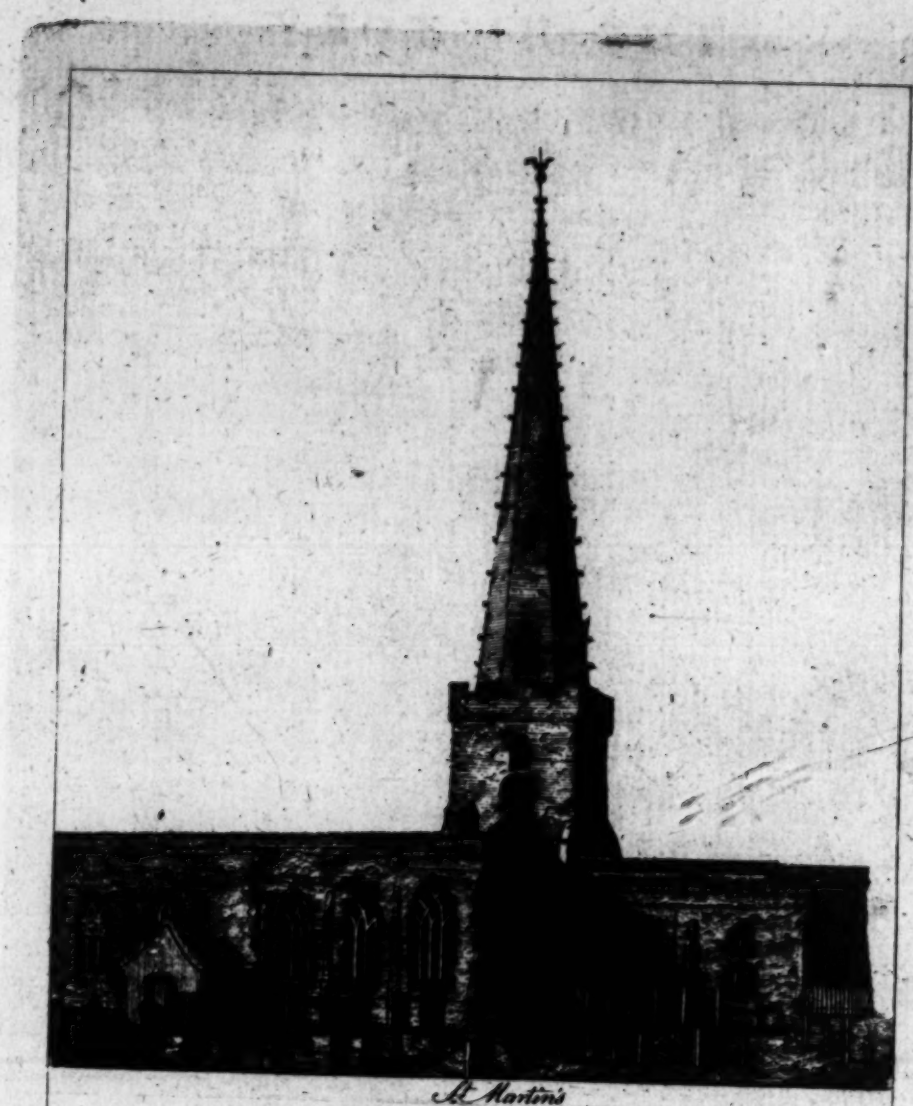
St. Martin.

Eccleſiæ ſancti Martini patronus idem abbas, habens eam, &c.

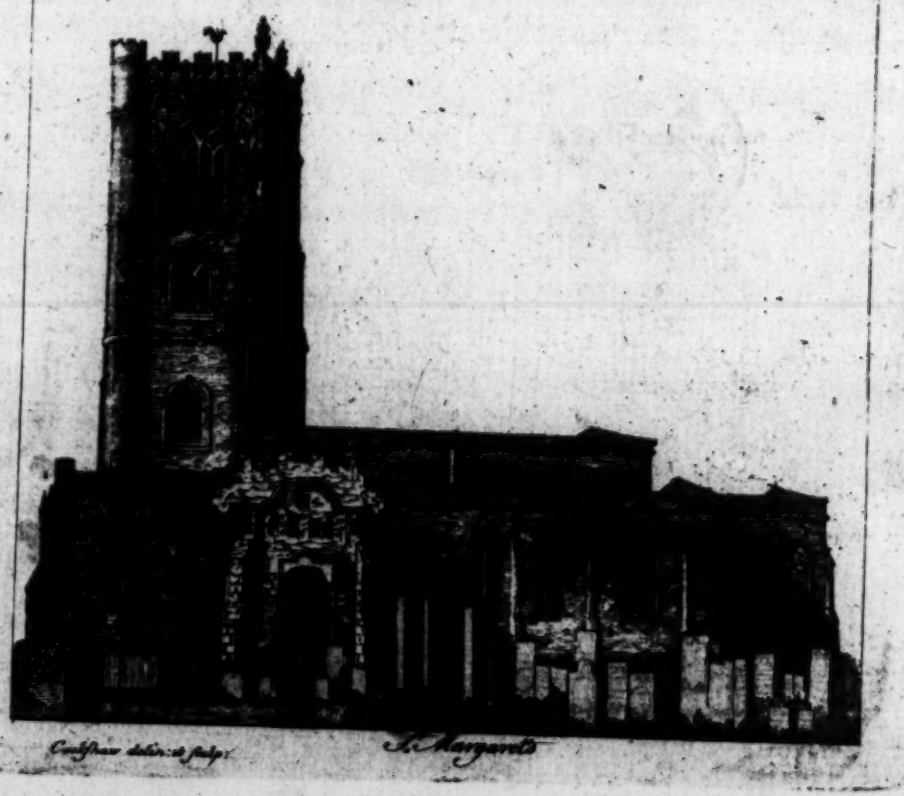
When the church of St. Martin was built it is not certain; but its

(*a*) See page 102. (*b*) The two laſt alſo were vicars of St. Martin. (*c*) See page 108.

materials,



St Martin's

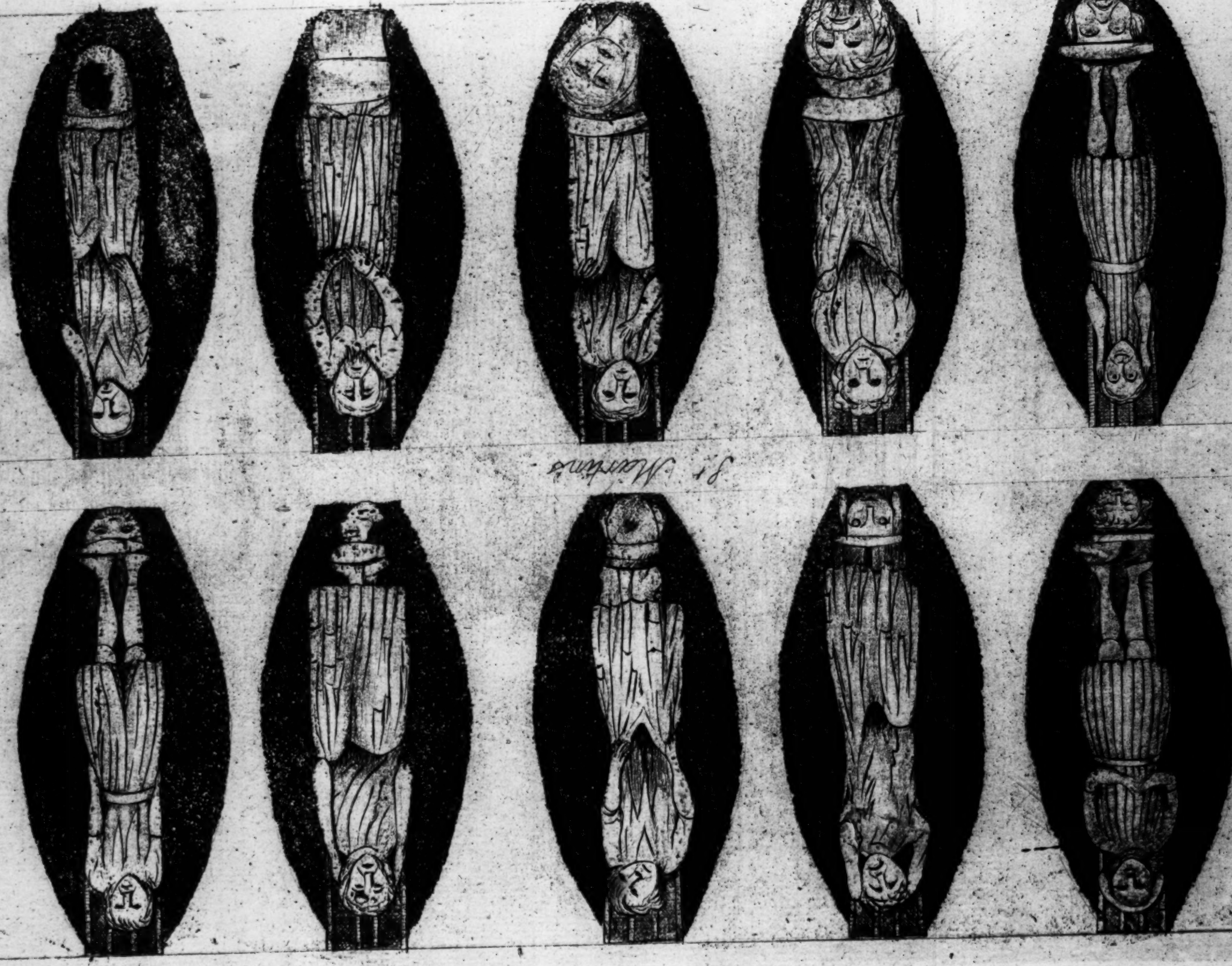


Confessor delin: et fculp:

St Margarets

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materials, particularly on the North ſide, appear to have been taken from an old ruin, probably from a portion of the town-wall, which, at the Conqueſt, lay in maſſy heaps. It has borne the names of *Trinity* and *St. Croſs*. It has a fine ſpacious nave, under-drawn; three ſide ailes, two South, and one North, and a peal of ten light bells, with chimes.

The South aile, wherein the archdeacon of Leiceſter holds his court, was an addition made to it ſome time after the main fabric was built; the outward wall being taken down, was built on its foundation that beautiful light range of cluſtered columns which now ſupport the roof, partly hidden by a gallery (*a*). Mr. Carte's opinion is, that the chancel, which is ſpacious, was built alſo after the main fabric. "In the Rentale Novum," ſays that gentleman, fol. 206, f. 214, I find a memorandum, Quod cancell' St. Martini edificata fuit anno Dom. 1409, et conſtabat 34l."

The church ſtands nearly central, is one of the largeſt, and eſteemed the principal church in the county. The Biſhops of the diocese, the Judges of Aſſize, and the Corporation, on high days, attend divine ſervice here.

Within the church there were formerly two chapels, St. George's and the Virgin Mary's. There alſo were three Altars before the diſſolution: the High Altar, St. Dunſtan's, and St. Catharine's (*b*). Here was alſo a grand proceſſion to St. Margaret's, ſimilar to that from St. Mary's, on Whitſun-Monday; the image of St. Martin being carried thither by twelve perſons repreſenting the twelve apoſtles, &c. Something ſimilar, but not ſo magnificent, was peculiar to all the other churches (*c*). But the riding of St. George, as it was

(*a*) On each ſide of this aile are ſome curious roof-ſupporters, repreſented in the annexed plate.

(*b*) I am apprehenſive that one of the two laſt ſtood in what is called Heyrick's, and the other near the veſtry door.

(*c*) In the church-wardens accompts, which, to the honour of the pariſh, are by far the beſt kept I have ever ſeen, commencing with the year 1544, are payments for repairing "our Lady Chapel,"

was then called, was the grandeſt ſolemnity of the town. St. George's Guild was here(*a*). The maſter of the Guild, annually, gave public notice to the inhabitants of the day appointed for this ceremony. This day was a day of great feſtivity and rejoicing; and of amuſement of an heterogeneous kind (*b*).

In this church was alſo founded the Corpus Chriſti Guild, the moſt ancient and principal in Leiceſter. To all public charges this Guild contributed largely. There were two maſters preſided, who had great intereſt in the corporation. They had power, in conjunction with the mayor, to inflict penalties upon the members of the corporation for miſconduct; and upon the mayor's neglect to obtain theſe penalties, they had power to levy them upon him (*c*). There was alſo a chantry founded here, by licence, the 23d of Edward III. to which belonged four chantry prieſts, appointed by the maſter of the Guild, and the church-wardens for the time being, approved of by the abbot before admiſſion.

Leading to the High Altar there was a fine range of ſteps which was removed in the Puritanic times (*d*). It was pewed and galleried

pel," and work down in St. George's chapel; the former was at the Eaſt, and the latter at the Weſt end of the broad South aile. In St. George's chapel ſtood his horſe, on an eminence, barneſſed in the church ſplendor of the times. (*a*) Carte.

(*b*) There is an expreſs order in an old hall book, made at a common hall, the 17th of Edw. IV. which enjoins all the inhabitants, by general ſummons, to attend the mayor "to ride againſt the king, or for riding the George, or any other thing, to the pleaſure of the mayor and worſhip of the town." Another order occurs in the hall book, the 14th Henry VII. "That every one of forty-eight ſhould contribute towards the ſupport of St. George's Guild; thoſe who had been chamberlains ſix-pence, and the other four-pence, annually." In the 15th of Henry VIII. the maſter having neglected to notice this annual cuſtom, an order was made, which ſubjected him to a fine of 5l. in default of appointing a day between St. George's day, and Whitſunday.

(*c*) The hall belonging to this Guild, and four houſes belonging to the chantry prieſts, were all ſituate at the weſt end of St. Martin's church. The hall is now called Town hall. (See that article in the preſent ſurv).

(*d*) Churchwardens book for 1645 ſays, "Paid William Haſtwell, maſon, according to his bill, for taking downe the ſtepps leading to the communion table, appointed to be taken downe by an ordinance of the Lords and Commons in parliament, and for levening downe many gowes which

galleried the beginning of this century. The organ, which is eſteemed a capital one, was erected by ſubſcription, at the expence of 600l. and opened at the anniverſary of the infirmary meeting in Sept. 1774, to a brilliant and extremely reſpectable meeting. The band of muſicians were the firſt in the kingdom: the organ was opened by Joah Bates, Eſq; and the earl of Sandwich, firſt lord of the Admiralty, accompanied the band upon the kettle-drums. The prime nobility and gentry in theſe parts attended on the occaſion. Omiah, the famed native of Otaheite, brought to England by Capt. Cook, was there alſo, brought down from London by the Earl of Sandwich, as a ſpectator of this ſplendid ſcene. The band had a temporary gallery erected, which reached into the middle of the principal aile (*a*).

In the church-wardens accompts, which I have obſerved are well preſerved, are to be found many curious particulars reſpecting the ſale of catholic relics at the Reformation, and of the reinſtating others during the reign of Mary I. and the diſpoſing of them again at the acceſſion of Elizabeth. They contain alſo many tranſactions of the pariſh, in ſubſequent times, which, I judge, are intereſting. Mr. Carte, the vicar, ſurely never ſaw the firſt folio of theſe accounts, or he certainly would have tranſcribed from it; but the difficulty might be thought greater than tranſcribing from old law Latin, as it certainly is in many places much more ſo; there however are, in ſome places in the margin, appearances of his pen noting ſomething that he might be about to ſelect.

which weare taken up att the buriinge of ſeveral great officers of the kinges army, which was ſlain att the ſtormige of the towne.'—3l. 17s. 5d." There is another charge the ſame year, for levelling down graves, probably in the church yard, for the ſoldiers who were ſlain in the market place and church-yard during the ſiege.

(*a*) Among the principal ſums ſubſcribed to the building of the organ, was 80l. by the Corporation; 35l. the Marquis of Granby; 21l. Earl of Denbeigh; 20l. Earl of Stamford; and 20 guineas Joſiph Cradock, Eſq. of Leiceſter. Suttaler, builder. Joſeph Cradock, Eſq. of Gumley Hall, received the thanks of the pariſhioners for his great attention in having the organ inſpected by the moſt ſkilful judges while it was building.

The

The firſt page of the oldeſt book is dated 1544, and contains chiefly obits of divers perſons, for which the pariſh received a ſum of money for the uſe of the bells, among which are,

" Item, for the buryall of Syr Robert Cowp', v bels. vs. IIIId.

" Re. for my Lord of Huntingdon's obbit of a gardin gevin to the towne of Edmond Couper, IIs. IIIId." (*a*)

A. D. 1545 " Palme Sunday," the account was delivered to the ſucceeding churchwarden, " Richard Raynford, who had a transfer of IXs. VId. More owing to ye chirch ye ſame day, for the bells, as apeyrith on the ſyd of this leffe XXXVIIs. IIIId. More owing to the chirche by Henry Maybley, for the ſepulchre lyght Xs."

At this time Thomas Skypton was vicar, Francis Heyneſworth, clark, and Robert Croft, ſexton. I have copied their pariſh pay from the payments that year.

" Furſt paid to Thoms Skypton, for Mydſom q. pd. VIIIs. IIIId.

" Item, to Francis Clarke, for the ſame, q pd. - - - XVId.

" Item, to Robert Sextin, for the ſame, q. pd. - - IIs. VIIId."

Some things occur among the payments at this time, which I give chiefly to ſhew the price of labour, and charges for pariſh matters, which may be found amuſing to ſome.

" Paid for my Lord of Huntingdons obyt XId.

" Paid to Robert Goldſmith for mending the chalis belonging to Sent Georges chapell, and a pix XVId.

" Paid for IIIIlb. of wax and . . . . . weke for a torche, and makyng the ſame IIs. Vd.

" Paid to Robert Crofte for a day wark at the ſtore hows Vd.

" P^d.^ to the plumar for a dais warc on o^r^ Lady Chappell VIId.

" P^d.^ to the Viker Preſts and Clarks for the preſeſhon at S^t.^ M̄getts, on Whiſſun M̄oday XIIId.

(*a*) This may mean received of Edmond Couper, for a burial in the ground given by my Lord of Huntingdon. It appears crabbedly inferred. In noticing the payment for the bells, five are the moſt mentioned, for which number they payed generally 4s, ſometimes 5s. 8d. the money then paid for bells and burials, was all taken to the pariſh account.

" P^d.^

" P^d. to Danyell for mending the veſtments IIs. VIIId.

" P^d. for a yard of grene ſilke, and x ſkeynes thred VIId.

" P^d. on Palme Sonday to the proffit, and for ale at the reding the passhon IId.

" P^d. for chercole on Es^t. evin IId.

" P^d. for the chargs of the preſſhon on Whiſſun monday, as doth apeyr in a bill, xs. IId.

" P^d. to ij pore wemen for ſcowring the eygle of braſſe, the candilſtix and ali wat^r. ſtop XXIId.

" P^d. for this chirche boke, bought at London the XIIII day of February, Anno Dom. 1544, IIIIs. VIII. (*a*)

" P^d. for meding ctyn things belonging to the preſſeſſon wiche was needful to be done XIId.

" P^d. for brayd and ale on Whiſſon moday XIId.

" P^d. to the Sinnar at Sent Margarets for the offringe VIIId."

The next year's accounts, ſettled in 1546, from page 7, contain a number of curious articles diſpoſed of at the Reformation, from which I give the following:

" Thacompte of Richarde Boynsforde and Henry Mabley, Churchwardens of Sent Mtyns in leic: made on palm ſondoy the XVIII of Aprell, in the yere of o^r lorde god mccccxlVI before Mr. Cotton, then maire of the towne of Leic^r. Mr. Gyllot, Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Wood, Mr. May, Mr. Vicars, and others in o^r ladys quere w^n the ſame chirche."

" Item, R^d. of Mr. Tallamore, then maire of Covetre, the XI day of Auguſte, for ſten plate ſold to hym, as apperith by hys p'ticuler byll therof XXIIIIl. vs. xd. (*b*)

" Item, R of the chaberlayne, as appereth bye oblygacyon, XXs.

(*a*) This folio contains 773 pages of writing paper, bound in rough calf, with ſtrong braſs claſps: the binding alone, at this day, would coſt at leaſt 10s. May the time be very diſtant ere this record and others of the country meet the fate of thoſe ancient archives of the church and nobility of France, conſigned lately to the flames, in Paris, by the modern reformers of that country!

(*b*) A very conſiderable ſum in thoſe days.

" Item,

" Item, p^d. in expences ii days at Covetre, when we ſold the plate ther, for our horſes and owre ſelves, IIIs. Id.

" Item for a lode of lyme IIIs. a lode of ſande IIIId. (*a*)

Page 13. " Mem^d y^t Symon Nyx, and Thoms Hallam, Chirchewardens. William Mauby, and Jhon Eyryk, Hew Barlow, and William Blaew, yn hathe ſolde theſ pſels following, by the comandemet of Mr. Mayer and his brethren, accordyne to the Kings injunccyons, the yere of o^r Lord xv hundrith xlvII. and the ffurſt yere of the Raign of Edward the Sixt (*b*).

" ffurſt ſolde VII clothis that hengyd beffore the Roode Loffte, price IIIs. VIIId.

" Solde to Nychis Eyrike a Tabernacle IIs. VIIId." Other tabernacles in the account were ſold one for a ſhilling; two for five ſhillings; another for 3s.

" Solde to Henry Mayblay the hors y^t the George roode on, pryce XIId. A hundred and a quarter and ſeven pound of iron, was ſold for 6s. 2¼d. Two other tabernacles were ſold for a ſhilling each, and one for 3s. 4d. A man of Stoughton Grange bought as much alabaſter as came to 1s. 8d. and another man as much as came to 10d.

" Solde to Jhon Eyryke ye organe chamb^r VIIIs. VId.

" Solde to Symon Nyx the florth and the vente that the George ſtood on IIIs." Four hundred and a quarter of braſs was ſold for 19s. per cwt. to one man; and 3 cwt. and 3 qu. was ſold to another at the ſame price, and one hundred to a William Taylor.

" Solde ty Ryc^d. Raynford the ſepulchre light, waying iii ſcore and xvlb. at IIId. ob. a lb. XXIs. xd. ob.

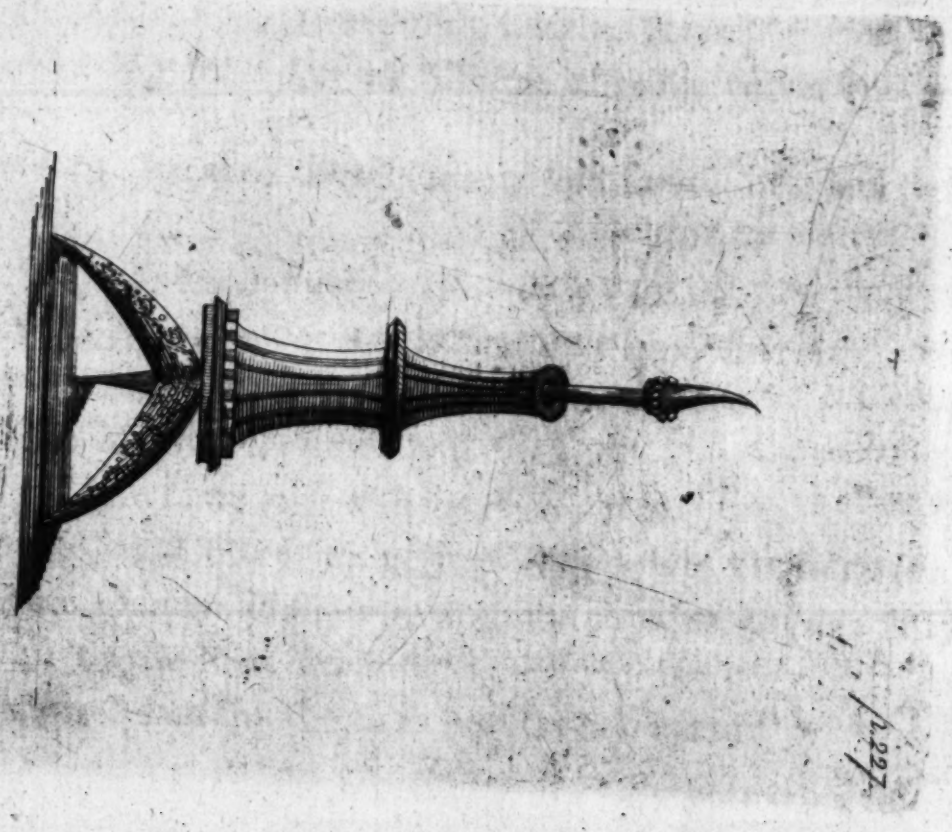
" Solde to Mr. Newcome C pounds waight of the organe pypes XVIs.

" And ſo all the whole y^t is all redy ſold, cumyth to XIIIIl. IIs. IId. ob.

" Paid to Robert Sextin and his fellow, for takyne down tabernacles and images, XXIId. Another tabernacle coſt 4d. taking down.

(*a*) The former now is nearly as many pounds, and the latter nearly as many ſhillings.

(*b*) A copy of the original is here annexed.



THE THORN,
taken from the Crown of Jesus.

G.R. III
BRITISH MUSEUM

In the accompts of Symon Nyx, and Thomas Hallam, churchwardens 1548, we find the following:

" Item, p^d. to the Kynge Maieſtye IIIs. IIIId.

" Iten, p^d. for an Homyle for Sr William the piſhe preſt, XIId."

Page 24 of their accompts, ſays,

" The pcells of the goods that was ſold forth the chirch of Sent Mtyns the xx day of Mche, in the fyriſt yer of the reygne of o^r Sovaigne Lord Edward the Sixt, by the grace of God, &c.

" Item, rec^d. of Mr. Mayre, for old gere, 5d.

" Item, rec^d. of William Taylloꝛ for one veſt and an arrbe XIId.

" Item, rec^d. of Mr. Damport for II veſtments, VIs. VIIId.

" Item, rec^d. of Mr. Cotton for II hangings for the hye alt^r. of whyt damaſk and purpyll vellvet XXXIIIs.

" Item, rec^d. of Mr. Vycker for an old veſt of gren IIs. IId.

" Item, rec^d. of Mr. Manbe for alt-clothes XIIs.

" Item, rec^d. of the ſame for an organ caſe IIIs.

" Item, rec^d. of Mr. Damport for Alt. Clothes XIIs.

" Item, rec^d. of the ſame for Alt. Clothe of redde velvet and whyt damaſke XVIIs.

" Item, rec^d. of Richard Davy for ij veſtments of blew velvet XXIXs.

" Item, rec^d. of the ſame for ij yellow copps XIIIs.

" Item, rec^d. of the ſame for a blew velvet coppe XVIIIs.

" Item, rec^d. of Mr. Manbe for III whyt cops XVIIs.

" Item, ſold to Mr. Reynold one canape XXs.

" Item, ſold to the ſame one veſt red VIs. VIIId.

" Item, ſold to Mr. Cotton one pall of blew velvet XIIIs. IIIId.

" Item, ſold to Thomas Hallam one gren cope of brydgs ſattyn, and an Alt. Cloth of the ſame Xs.

" Item, Willim Odam for the rode lyght VIIs. VIIId."

In the accompts for 1549, the foot-ſtools of the tabernacles ſold for IIs. Paid for the Paraphraſe of Eraſmus for the church Xs. And for

the chains and nails for the Bible 5d.——18d. was paid for taking down the rood loft.

In 1550 the accompts ſay,

"Received for ſelling St. Dunſtan's altar 16d." And a "wyte" over St. Kattern's altar was ſold for 12d. The table at the latter altar was ſold for 12d. A hundred of iron was ſold for 13s.; and the "catche coppe bells" for 25s. per cwt. A canopy and a green veſtment was ſold for 26s. 7d. A green cope of bridge ſatin ſold for 9s. A book of ſervice for the church coſt 4s. 8d.

In 1551, a table in the rode chapel was ſold for 5s. and one "in our Lady chappell VIS. VIIId."

"Item, rec^d. of Thomas Wart for the vowte on Sent George Autter IIS. VIIId." The leaſt "catche cope" bell was ſold for XXVIIS. XId.; and two other bells were ſold for 3l. XIS. VIIId.

"Item, rec^d. for ij candleſticks, ij holly watt^r. ſtokes, and VI lyttell bells waying ——, XXXVIIS. VId.

"Item rec^d. for the poſt horſe XXVIS. IXd." And further on in this year's account, 8d. is paid for graſs for a poſt horſe, and 3s. 5d. for graſs for the ſame, in Beaumont Leys (*a*).

In the accounts for 1552,

There was received for a preſs XXIIIS. IIIId. and for a crowne of wood covered with ſilver; and 2 croſſes of wood covered alſo with ſilver, and "a notte of copper" IIIl. VIS. VIIId. There was paid for a miniſter helping the vicar on Sunday, 3s. 4d.; and for one officiating during his abſence in London, 5s.

A. D. 1553, among the valuables ſold and received for in this year's accounts were:

"Receivid of Nycoles Gaſſun, of Nottingham, for ij coppes, i veſſment, and ij tenakyles of clothe of teſshew i veſtmēt and ij tenkylys

(*a*) A horſe was then kept at the expence of the pariſh for general uſe.

kylys of clothe of ſilver, and ij coppes and i veſſment of blew velvet, xviiil."

" Recevid of Rycharde Dare for a corporas caſe and viii ſhets, i towell, i alter-clothe, and the rowd cowt xxxviiis. iiiid."

A veſtment of blue velvet was ſold for 10s.

" Received of Nicoles, golde ſmethe, for ij ſherts y' was for Seynte Nicoles, and a hold towell iijs. iiiid."

" Receivid of Rychard Hewis for corporas caſe, and Sente Martens cowt, and a towell of dyap worke iis. viiid."

" Receivid of John Wryght for xiiii banar clothes iiiis."

In the payments two pſalters for the clark's uſe, coſt xxd. A book for the new ſervice coſt 5s. and one concerning the rebels, which was read in the church, coſt 4d. And 1l. 6s. 8d. was paid for the prieſt's wages that year.

Page 55. 1554, on Palm Sunday, the churchwardens accompts were paſſed before the mayor and others, as uſual, being the firſt year of the reign of Mary I. In which account are ſeveral things bought in for the uſe of the church upon the old religion. Among the receipts of this account are the value of ſome trees, which moſt likely ſtood in or about the church-yard, ſome aſh and ſome elm.

" P^d. for ij coopes and a veſtment of blew velvet xxs. P^d. for the braſſyn lectory xxs. P^d the comyſſyoners for ij preſſes iiis. iiii. P^d. for the churche byll for the collectors vis. P^d. for a rood cote xxd. P^d. for iii Corporas caſys xiid. P^d. for xii bannar clothes iis. P^d. for a whyett ſattyn cope xs. P^d. for a ſacrynge bell viiid. P^d. to the quene's comiſſioners for the copes of tyſſue that were ſolde viiil. P^d. to William Burrows for canvas and packthred for the orgayns iiiid. P^d. to Mr. Manbe for ix yards and half of ſay for Mr. Mayres ſeat, and Meſtres Marys xs. iiid. ob. P^d. to him for red naylls for the ſame iis. P^d. to Sir Willm. Burrows for a ſalter, a poeſſyouer, a manuell, and a cowcher vis. viiid. P^d. to hym the ſame day for mendyng ye orgyns, for glue, naylls, lether, packthred, and wayghts of leade to

lay uppon the orgaynes vis. P^d. for 11 candylſtyks for the altar 11s. P^d. for a manuall to wed, cryſtyn, and burye wth all, 111s. 1111d. P^d. for a maſs book and a cowcher xs. P^d. for a grayll to ſyng in the chirch owr xs. P^d. for dreſſyng and heſyng Sent George, harnes vis. viii. P^d. to Syngylton for a croſſe xxd." There are various charges for articles to repair the "hye alt'." Red ſatin to cover the canopy at the ſacrament; for a "pyx" for the ſacrament, painting in the church, for dreſſing the altars, for veſtments, for hair cloth for the high altar. Near the ſignature of the churchwardens are the names of "John Buſſhe and Willm. Rechardſon, appointed gatherers for the ſepulcers lyght."

Page 61. A. D. 1555. I might have obſerved that the accounts were generally paſſed on Palm Sunday, and before the mayor of the town. The preamble to this year runs thus, after mentioning the year of our Lord, "in the fyrſt and ſde yere of the reignes of o^r ſovainge lorde and lady Phillippe and Marye, by the grace of God of england, ffrance, Naples, Jeruſalem, and Ireland, Kinge and Quene, defender of the Feathe."

One of the gatherings for ſepulcher lights, in this year's account, was 4s. and another 7s. 8d. "Holy watt^r. ſtock coſt 5s. Painting the "paſcall" ſtock coſt xiiid. "For the preſts wage for Mydſom^r. quarter xxxiiis. iiid. Some banners coſt 3s. and the offering at St. Margaret's, and drink there for the attendants, coſt xiid. "A pottell of wyne gyven to Mr. Docto^r when he preached vid." A perſon for ſinging was paid 6s. 8d. and him for playing the organ 5s. (perhaps for the year). The altar "in o^r Lady Chappell" coſt 18d.; a paſcall ſtock and hair cloth 8d.; a "challyce" 11s. iiid.; a "croſſe and Sauters" 5s. 3d.; timber for making the "ſepulcre lyght" 5s.; and the "ſepulcre lyght" coſt 4s. For painting "the Sepulcre and a clothe for o^r Ladye awlter" coſt 1s. 10d.

Page 66. A. D. 1556. Two banner poles coſt 1s. 3d. "P^d. to the iii ſhepperds at whytſontyde vid." For ale and cake at St. Margaret's

garet's 18d. and for ſcowring the eagle 1s. 4d. The ſeat in Trinity chapel coſt 1s. 6d.; and 2 dinners, &c. at the viſitation 12d. "P^d. for IX coper dyſhes for the rode lofte IXs.

1557, no accounts.

1558, The gathering for the altars came to 11s. 11½d. The making the "Roode Mary and John" coſt XIIIs. IIIId. Three gallons of ale, and 4d. in cake at St. Margaret's, coſt 19d. "P^d. for the beyryng of the croſſe and banners XIIId." The gilding the Rood Mary and John coſt 1s. 10d. More was paid for gilding the Rood Mary and John.

1559. "Rec^d. in Lincolne farthyngs 11s. 1d. Rec^d. for the mawrys dance of chyldern IIIs." The charge at St. Margaret's coſt IIIs. A ſtrike of charcoal 5d. A hyde of leather 4s. 8d. and 11 ells of holland for 2 ſurplices coſt only 9s. 8d. and 8d. making. And ale for the ringers "when the quenes grace was p̄clamyd" VIIId.

Page 6. 1560. "Rec^d. of Bafforthe for the lord and the lady XXId. ob. Rec^d. for Linckolne farthings 11s. 11d. ob." The offering at St. Margaret's coſt 11s. 11d. "P^d. to the plears for ther paynes VIId. A Bible and Paraphraſe coſt 3s. 3d. A ſervice book 5s. 4d. The altar ſtones taking down coſt 3d."

1561. "Rec^d. for ſerten ſtufe lent to the players of Foſſon VId. P^d. for birdlime IIIId."

1562. It does not appear that many of the Catholic things, reinſtated in the church on the acceſſion of Queen Mary, were ſold, till this year, after Elizabeth's acceſſion. Veſtments and banner cloths, a rood loft, and a variety of things, were ſold agreeable with the change of the times. Charges in fixing of ſeats in "Mr. Mayre chappell" coſt 4s. 6d.; and the fetching of ſeats from St. Peter's church, and making the collector's ſeat, coſt 5s. IIIId. Writing the commandments coſt 2s. "P^d. for a dynner that was beſtowed upon the clarkes y^t kepe ye qeyre, at cryſſonmas, VIs. VIIId."

Page

Page 101. 1563, "P^{d}. to the ryngars on blak monday, at the commandmente of maſter Mere, xiid." Communion table frame coſt 2s. 8d, A communion book 3s. P^{d}. for wyn for the communion at eſtur, iij quartes of maneſs, and ix quartes of claret wyne, iiiis. vid. Are we to wonder moſt at the price of the wine, or the quantity drunk? "P^{d}. for Mr. Fyſher, of Worweke, for a penſoon goyng out of this ſayd chorch of Sent Martens, beyng dew to the quens maieſtye, xl^{s}." Here is a ſpecial charge for mending the church windows, and repairing the leads after "the tempaſte;" the window coſt 1s. 3d. od. and the nails for nailing down the lead 18d. About this time there are frequent charges for bird lime, and ſometimes for gunpowder, to kill the ſtarlings about the church.

1564. 5s. was received by the church-wardens for the rent of St. Peter's church-yard. A book of Homilies coſt 3s. 4d. My lord's ſeat, and my lord's chapel, are mentioned in this year's account; probably Lord Huntingdon's.

1565. Several things were ſold this year belonging to the old religion. 3 ſtrike of coals coſt xvid. and hanging the great bell coſt 2s.

Nothing material till 1567, when the organ pipes, and all things belonging to the organ, were ſold for 5l. and the images taking down from the pulpit coſt 4d.——A "chales" was exchanged for a "comunyon cupp, with a kever duble gylte," at 6s. per ounce, the difference 2l. 4s. 8d.

P. 122. 1569. The eagle was ſold for 18s.

Pages 125, 126, 127, 128, are by ſome means miſplaced (the book is paged by a modern hand), they belong to a former period. In them are theſe articles: "P^{d}. to the ryngers at the obbyt for my lord of Huntynd^{n}. and the belman xiid." Pa^{d}. for iii quarts of claryt wyne that was gyven to my lord judgues chapplyn ixd. A quart of malmyſey coſt 4d. Pa^{d}. to the ryngers for Kynge Henry the eyght xiid. A gallon of wine "for my lord of Lyncolne, chancellor, when he prechyd at Sent Mtyns," coſt 12d.

Page 103. In the accounts paſſed in 1570-1. "Pd. unto Yreland for cuttynge downe the ymages hedes in the churche xxd." 12d. was paid for taking down the angels wings. Angels and Miniſters of Grace did not defend theſe inoffenſive forms from axes and hammers.

A curious bye-law. "An acte made by Mr. Mayor and hys brethren, yt yf anye of ye xxiiii (aldermen) or theyr wyves do dept ys lyf yf they have but ye greate bell they muſt pay for yt vs. And for every one of the xlviii, or theyr wyves do dept yt lyf muſt pay for the ſame bell iiis. iiiid. And for the beſt comoners for the ſame bell iis. And ye mydle comoners for the ſame bell xiid. Further, yt ys agreed by Mr. Mayor and hys Brethren, yf anye man doe refuſe to be church-warden when he ys Electe, ſhall paye for ye fyrſt tyme xs. and the money to be for ye uſe of ye church.

The church work, or rather the levy on the pariſhoners for the church, in the year 1572, came to 51s. and 9d. about an average ſum at that time; now it amounts, at the leaſt, to 200l. and upwards.

By the accounts about this time it appears that 10s. a year was given to the repairs of the church by one John Davie; and 3s. 4d. to the pariſh alſo by Henrie Peake, annually.

In 1579 there was only one churchwarden.

The clock and chimes were coſtly in repairs about this time; and in 1586 the "forr bell" was recaſt, towards which the mayor and nine of the aldermen paid 6s. 8d. each, and twenty-one of the Common Council paid 3s. 4d. The whole ſum of the receipts on the occaſion 11l. 18s. 6¾d. The caſting coſt only 5l. metal and incidental charges 10l. 11s. 8d.

1594. It appears by the accounts at this time, that there was a library within the belfry of the church.

Page 236. 1595, "Pd. for a preare booke to John Walker, for the queene, viiid. It appears alſo that, for any great jobbs done in the church, the mayor and corporation contributed largely. The recaſting the

the leads of the church came, in this year, to 6l. 12s. 7d. towards which half was raiſed by the aldermen and common council.

1600, is the firſt year I find any mention of overſeers. In 1602 is an account of the repairs of St. Edward's ſeat. Total payments in 1603, on the church account, was 8l. 17s. 1604, paid to the ringers 2s. 4d. when her majeſty was in the towne. Sir Henry Haſtings had a ſeat in the church at this time. In 1611 there was a diſpute about chooſing church-wardens. It appears that the miniſter choſe one at that time. In 1612 money was gathered for "the Grecyan Biſhopp" 5s. 8d. Page 405, ſays, "payde to the ſeckerſton (ſexton) for burringe of the poore viſited people by Mr. Mayor's appointment IIIIs. IIIId." In 1613 the accounts ſay, "p^d. to ſix ringers for ringinge 3 days when the kinge and prince was here XVIIIs. 6d. "Worke done about my Lord's ſeate IIIIs." In this year it was agreed by the mayor and others, that there ſhould be no ringing of bells at weddings, unleſs there were paid to the church-wardens 2s. 6d. 1614. "Payd for a book of Jewells work XXIIIIs." 1615. "Payde to the ringers for ringinge when his Ma^iet came to Leiceſter, XIIIs. 1617, Pay^de the ringers at the King's cuming to Leic^r. IXs. 1621. Payde to fyve ringers for ringing three dayes at the earl of Huntingdon's beinge in the towne VIIs. VId.'

Little more worthy notice till

1625, when there was "paid for ringinge when the proclamation was publiſhed concerninge the baniſhment of Jeſuits IIs. VId. 2s. 6d. was paid for ringing when the French Ambaſſador came to Leiceſter. And at the firſt and ſecond time proclaiming the king Vs. In 1626, a letter from the Biſhop coſt 6d. concerning the plague. 1627. "P^d. for ringing, when the earl of Devonſhire came to the Abbey, 2s. 6d. There were alſo charges for ringing when the counteſs of Huntingdon was at the Angell, and when the earl of Devonſhire and the chancellor was at the Abbey. In 1630, there is a charge for a prayer for the Queen's being with child. The ſame year there are charges for ringing

ing when the counteſs came to the abbey, and for the earl of Exeter; alſo for the governour of Scotland, and the coming of the earl to town. The ſteeple was pointed down by William Haſtwell, and other expences occurred, which made the rate amount to 110l. and upwards. 1635. Pd. Moſes Andrew, &c. for taking away the two rowes of ſeats in the church againſt the king's coming, 4s. and for 2 loade of ruſhes, and mowing them againſt the king's Maties coming xxd. The carriage of them coſt 3s. More was paid for boughs and ruſhes, and taking away the Mayor's ſeat, on the ſame account. There was paid alſo to the king's officers for fees for "the ffloare," where the king ſat. The ringers were paid 15s. during the king's ſtay. The flowers for the king's cuſhion coſt 4d. At the archbiſhop's viſitation the ringers were paid 11s. 6d. In this account alſo are charges for a Mr. Hall (I ſuppoſe a clergyman), aſſiſting Mr. Holmes; and to the recorder, for writing to the lord keeper, concerning a new miniſter.

In 1636 it was agreed that the church-wardens for the time being, for ever, hereafter, during the reſidence of Mr. Walter Walker, then vicar, joined with others of the pariſh and corporation, ſhould raiſe, by way of levy, the ſum of 20l. to be paid by 5l. a quarter to the ſaid vicar, for his better maintenance. In 1639, it appears Mr. Walker left, and the lord keeper was written to again for a vicar. A quart of wine and biſkets, given to the new vicar at his coming, coſt 1s. 6d. In 1641 the lord keeper came to town. And there is a charge for a matt, "for the Counteſſe her ſeate." By this the counteſs of Devon probably had a ſeat in this church. In 1643 the king was at Leiceſter. I have noticed, page 112, the things provided for the occaſion in the church. By theſe accounts we find, that king Charles the Firſt, with his court, honoured this church twice, by attending the public ſervice of Almighty God, in 1635, and in 1643.

In 1644 the ſexton was put out of his office for begetting a baſtard child, he having a wife. There is a charge of parchment, to

enroll the names of thoſe who took the covenant, and a charge for ringing on the diſcovery of the "London plot," and on account of Lord Grey's coming to town. 1645. In this accompt is a receipt of 6s. 8d. for burying a ſoldier who was wounded at the ſeige of Leiceſter; and a charge for mending the lockes of church doors, broken by the king's army. "Paid William Haſtwell, maſon, for takeing downe the ſteppes leadinge to the communion table, appointed to be taken downe by an ordinance of the lords and commons in Parliament, and for laeyinge downe many graves which were taken up at the burieinge of divers great officers of the king's army, which was ſlaine att the ſtorminge of this towne, 3l. 17s." Another bill Haſtwell was paid, for taking down "the holy water ffont." "Received for charitable uſes att communions, beſide what was plundered and diſtributed 5l. 12s. 3d." At this time, 1646, there were great changes of the pariſh miniſters. A meeting was called by the principal inhabitants to enlarge the payments of the miniſter, till ſome regulation was made by parliament; at which time it was unanimouſly agreed, that the pariſh ſhould be taxed for that purpoſe, to make up the voluntary ſubſcription 80l. per annum, beſide ſurplice fees. "Pay^{d} the 7th of May, unto the ringers, when Newworke was ſurrendered upp unto parlm^{t} 2s. 6d." "Pay to the ringers when the Lords and Comm^{rs} and Judges were at Leiceſter 0l. 4s. 0d." "Pay^{d} to the ringers the 22d Jan^{r} 1646, when the Lords and Comn^{rs} cam unto Leiceſter, by the appoyntment of the Committee 0l. 6s. 0d. Pay^{d} to the ringers when his Ekcellence cam to Leſter 0l. 2s. 6d." Was it Cromwell, or Fairfax? "Pay^{d} to the ringers when the Kinge eam unto Leiceſter 0l. 3s. 0d."

In 1647 the miniſter's tax fell ſhort. In the liſt of names, taxed to ſupport the vicar, appears a *Captaine Hamden*. A Thomas Griffen was paid 5s. for *redeeming* the regiſter book. 1648. Here are charges for ringing at the victory over the Scots, for "good tydings from Wayles;" on the day of thankſgiving for regaining of Leiceſter; and

for

for "a vicktory over the enemie att Willobie, by the committes apointment." In 1651 a matt is charged for *Lady Hungate's* ſeat. And a charge for deſtroying the king's arms. Several charges appear about this time for procuring miniſters to preach. Between 1640 and 1650 there were five vicars.

"At a meeting of the pariſh held ye 19th march 1651, it was agreed, by the greater number of the pariſhioners then preſent, y^t^ Mr. Richard Pike ſhall be preſented to the Comittee for reformation of the Univerſities, to be Mineſter of this pariſh of Martines, in Leic^r^. and Mr. Mayor is deſired y^t^ he will be pleaſed to ſignify by his letters to the ſ^d^ Comittee, and ye lord Grey, and Sir Arthur Haſlerigge, or ſuch others as he ſhall thinke fit, of our election of the ſ^d^ Mr. Pike, to be our Miniſter."

1652. "P^d^ to the Ringers for ye 18th of June, beinge ye day of regaineing ye towne, ol. 4s. od." and 2s. 6d. at Gen. Cromwell's paſſing by, Aug. 25, and upon the news of beating the Scots, 3s. 4d. and for ringing on the thankſgiving day, on that account, by lord Grey's order." In this account alſo are many charges in procuring clergymen to preach "on the Lord's day," while they had no ſtated miniſter. 1656, a Mr. Barton was appointed pariſh miniſter, at the rate of twenty ſhillings a week. In 1657, Mr. Barton and ſeveral others officiated. This year ſome of the five bells were recaſt, to make a peal of ſix. Charges 50l.

In 1661, the accounts have a payment of 5s. the fourth of May, when "the king was voted in," and the like ſum on his arrival in London. The king's arms and mayor's ſeat were painted by a Mr. Garland, at the expence of 6l. 13s. 4d. Times were altered.—At a pariſh meeting, the new font, faſhioned and placed agreeable with the puritanic times, was ordered to be taken down, and the old ſtone one to be erected where it formerly ſtood.

In 1662, on his Majeſtie's coronation day, and on the public day of thankſgiving, the 29th of May, there was much ringing, and ad-

ditional pay. In 1663, "a paire of chimes and a quarter clocke" were agreed for, at the charge of 12l. 4s. 0d. and the materials of the old chimes. In 1666, the charges for the perambulation, "for bread and drink upon the people and parſon," came to 6s. To the young people was given at the ſame time "in poynts, ol. 2s. 6d." In 1670, the ſteeple was repaired, part taken down at the expence of 65l.

In 1677, a rate was layed for the maintenance of the poor, at 1½d. per pound, now frequently 1s.

1684. "Paid Francis Hooke for his Majeſtie's declaration for the times when his Majeſty touches for healing."

This curious paper remained in the veſtry upwards of 100 years, in an oak frame, well preſerved. Its contents being curious, I ſcruple not to give it by way of ſhewing the complexion of the times.

"*At the Court at* WHITEHALL, *the 9th January*, 1683.

PRESENT,

The King's moſt excellent Majeſty, CHARLES the Second.

Lord Keeper	Earl of Huntingdon
Lord Privy Seal	Earl of Bridgewater
Duke or Ormond	Earl of Peterborough
Duke of Beaufort	Earl of Cheſterfield
Earl of Oxford	Earl of Clarendon
Earl of Bath	Mr. Secretary Jenkins
Earl of Craven	Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer
Earl of Nottingham	Mr. Chancellor of the Dutchy
Earl of Rocheſter	Lord Chief Juſtice Jeffryes
Lord Biſhop of London	Mr. Godolphin.

Whereas, by the Grace and Bleſſing of God, the Kings and Queens of this realm, by many ages paſt, have had the happineſs, by their ſacred touch, and invocation of the name of God, to cure thoſe who are afflicted

afflicted with the diſeaſe called the King's Evil; and his majeſty, in no leſs meaſure than any of his royal predeceſſors, having had good ſucceſs therein; and, in his moſt gracious and pious diſpoſition, being as ready and willing as any king or queen of this realm ever was, in any thing to relieve the diſtreſſes and neceſſities of his good ſubjects: yet, in his princely wiſdom foreſeeing that in this (as in all things) order is to be obſerved, and fit times are neceſſary to be appointed for the performing of this great work of charity: his majeſty was therefore pleaſed this day to declare, in council, his royal will and pleaſure to be, that (in regard heretofore the uſual times of preſenting ſuch perſons for this purpoſe have been prefixed by his royal predeceſſors) the times of public healings ſhall from henceforth be from the feaſt of All-Saints, commonly called Allhallow-tide, till a week before Chriſtmas; and after Chriſtmas until the firſt day of March, and then to ceaſe till Paſſion-week: the above being times moſt convenient, for the temperature of the ſeaſon, and in reſpect of contagion which may happen in this near acceſs to his majeſty's ſacred perſon. And when his majeſty ſhall at any time think fit to go any progreſs, he will be pleaſed to appoint ſuch other times for healing as ſhall be moſt convenient. And his majeſty doth hereby accordingly order and command, that, from the time of publiſhing this his majeſty's order, none preſume to repair to his majeſty's court to be healed of the ſaid diſeaſe, but only at or within the times for that purpoſe hereby appointed as aforeſaid. And his majeſty is further pleaſed to order, that all ſuch as hereafter ſhall come or repair to the court for this purpoſe, ſhall bring with them certificates under the hands and ſeals of the parſon, vicar, or miniſter, and of both or one of the church-wardens of the reſpective pariſhes where they dwell, and from whence they come; teſtifying, that they have not at any time before been touched by his majeſty to the intent to be healed of their diſeaſe. And all miniſters and churchwardens are hereby required to be very careful to examine into the truth, before they give ſuch certificates; and alſo to

keep a regiſter of all certificates they ſhall from time to time give. And, to the end that all his majeſty's loving ſubjects may the better take knowledge of this his majeſty's command, his majeſty was pleaſed to direct that this order be read publicly in all pariſh churches, and then be affixed to ſome conſpicuous place there; and that the ſame be printed, and a convenient number of copies ſent to the moſt reverend father in God the Lord Archbiſhop of Canterbury, and the Lord Archbiſhop of York, who are to take care that they be diſtributed to all pariſhes within their reſpective provinces."

1686. Charles the Firſt's picture, now over the Conſiſtory Court, was painted by a Mr. Rowley: charge 10l. 0s. 0d. Nothing very material, but ringing for victories and thankſgiving days. "William the Third," by one of the accounts, "came throw Leſter on his birth-day, in 1696." In 1703, It was agreed, at a pariſh meeting, that no more than 3s. 4d. ſhould be expended on thoſe occaſions, which order, to the credit of the officers, I believe, is now not at all increaſed. "In 1704, p^{d} for a forme of prayer, for a thankſgiving after the greate ſtorme 1s." In 1705, the tenor bell was recaſt, at the expence of 26l. 8s. The victories of the Duke of Marlborough created much ringing. The South gallery was built, and a regulation ſettled reſpecting the ſeats in the church, for thoſe on the corporate body and their wives. In 1706, "p^{d} for taking a Papiſh prieſt and expences 3s. 6d." In 1707 much ringing for good news from abroad.

At a pariſh meeting in 1711, it was agreed, out of reſpect to Mr. Carte, vicar, to repair the chancel at the expence of the pariſh, inſtead of the vicar, to whom the repairs belonged. Mr. Carte has inſerted the following in the pariſh book.

"N. B. The chancel is the king's, as ſucceeding in the right of the Abbot of Leic. The vicar pays 5s. per annum rent to the king, or his patentees, for which he receives the profits of the chancel, and half

half a noble per annum of Wigſton's hoſpital. I think fit to inſert this, to prevent miſtakes. SAM. CARTE."

Mrs. Alice Barnes, widow, Auguſt 23, 1711, gave for the uſe of the communion two ſilver flaggons, weighing upwards of 46 ounces each.

By the accounts of the year 1719, the altar piece coſt 40l.

In 1724 an order came from the Biſhop of Lincoln for the new pewing the church, and building the North gallery uniform with the South gallery, built in 1705.

In 1729 a very extraordinary diſpute happened, between Mr. Jackſon, ſome time confrater and afterwards maſter of Wigſton's hoſpital, and Mr. Carte the vicar of this pariſh, chiefly reſpecting the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. In the morning Mr. Carte, with much zeal and clerical knowledge, ſupported the doctrine of the Holy Trinity; and in the evening Mr. Jackſon openly denied it. For a time the church was crowded to hear thoſe zealous diſputants. At one time Mr. Jackſon was ſtopped by the ſexton at the pulpit ſtairs, and not ſuffered to preach; at another time he was bidden by the churchwardens to leave the pulpit in the midſt of the diſcourſe. It appears that diſputes on this head had ariſen to a great height in Leiceſter before this time; for, in 1724, the Right Honourable Earl Coningſby left a valuable conſideration, in truſt for the benefit of the vicar of St. Martin for the time being, for the expreſs purpoſe of enforcing, by twelve ſermons in the year, the doctrine of the Trinity. The deed runs thus. "Whereas the ſaid Thomas Earl Coningeſby is deſirous to contribute his endeavours to the ſupport of the moſt glorious cauſe; to wit, the aſſerting the Divinity of our bleſſed Saviour, and to prevent the propagation of the heretical and heterodox tenets relating to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, and the divinity of the Holy Jeſus, the ſecond perſon in that Sacred Trinity, which of late have been advanced within this kingdom, and more particularly within

within the borough of Leiceſter aforeſaid," &c. The diſpute was at length taken up by the pariſh, and, in the bill of expences incurred, is this article: "Paid to the ringers, upon news that the pariſh's appeal to the Arches was allowed good againſt Mr. Jackſon, 6s.;" and 6s. for ringing, "when the good news came of the pariſh's caſting Mr. Jackſon in the Duchy Chamber." The bill for retaining counſel, &c. amounted to 36l. 17s. 6d.

In the year 1730, Mr. Needham, who lived in the church-yard, obtained leave from the pariſh to make the gravel-walk, and plant it with trees, at his own expence.

In 1737 it was agreed, that part of the ſpire ſhould be taken down, i. e. two feet below the firſt window, at the expence of 126l.; an enormous expence, if compared with the rebuilding St. Mary's ſpire lately. Moreover, the builder, whoſe name was Jackſon, tricked the pariſh out of a full yard of its height.

The moſt material things, which have occurred ſince this time, are noticed in other portions of the hiſtory of this church. The middle aile was underdrawn chiefly by a legacy of 100l. left by the late Cornelius Norton, for beautifying the church.

The altar-piece was given by Sir William Skeffington, Bart. in the year 1790, from his admired collection of pictures at Skeffington Hall. It was painted by Cavalier Franceſco Vanni, born at Siena, in the Dukedom of Tuſcany, Anno Dom. 1563, who was a diſciple of Arcangelo Salimbeni (his godfather); and afterwards of Frederico Zucchero. He quitted the manner he had learned from them, to follow that of Barocci, whom he imitated in his choice of religious ſubjects, as well as in his guſto of painting. The moſt conſiderable works of this maſter are in the ſeveral churches of Siena, and are much commended, both for the beauty of their colouring and correctneſs of their deſign. He died Anno Dom. 1610, having been knighted by Pope Clement the Eighth, for his famous piece of the Fall of Simon Magus, in the Vatican.

The

The ſubject of the altar-piece is the Aſcenſion of Our Saviour. He is repreſented with the Banner of the Croſs, and is ſurrounded by Cherubim. The figure is delineated with grace, and the countenance is deſcriptive of all the mildneſs of character the imagination can form. The aſtoniſhed ſoldiers, in the fore-ground, are well grouped and finely drawn, and the attendant Cherubim are moſt beautifully coloured, and happily diſpoſed in the upper part of the picture.

Two things deſerve notice from the pariſh regiſter: the firſt reſpects the plague in 1610. In the regiſter for the burials this year, there is a croſs made with a pen, in the margin of the month of Auguſt, againſt which, "This began the plague," meaning this entry. "The xxi a child at Francis Beſte houſe was buried." I find, upon examining, that, from this date, Aug. the 21ſt, 1610, to the 1ſt day of Sept. 1611, there were buried in the pariſh 166 perſons. In the year preceding, from the firſt of Auguſt, 1609, to the firſt of Auguſt, 1610, only forty-four perſons; and the ſame number the year ſucceeding, viz. from the firſt day of Nov. 1611 (when it appears it had wholly ſubſided) to the firſt day of Nov. 1612. By theſe obſervations it appears, that there muſt have died in this pariſh only, of that dreadful malady, upwards of one hundred ſouls. Many of the ſufferers names are given in pages 108 and 109.

In the marriage regiſter, in the 18th year of the reign of Elizabeth, is inſerted the following:

"Februarye the vth day, Thomas Tilſey and Urſula Ruſſel were maryed; and becauſe the ſayde Thomas was, and is, naturally deafe, and alſo dombe, ſo that the cuſtom of the form of marriage uſed uſuallye amongſt others which can heare and ſpecke, could not for his part be obſerved; after the approbation had from Thomas the Biſhope of Lincoln, John Chippendale, Doctor in Lawe and Comiſſary; as alſo of Mr. Richard Davye, then Mayor of the towne of Leiceſter, with others of his brethren, with the reſte of the pariſhe; the ſaide Thomas, for expreſſinge of his minde, ſteade of words, of

his owne accorde, uſed theſe ſignes: Firs, he embraced her with his armes, and tooke her by the hande, put a ringe upon her finger, and layde his hande upon his harte, and upon her harte, and helde up his hands towards heaven; and to ſhew his continuence to dwell with her to his lyves ende, he did it by cloſinge of his eyes with his hands, and diggine out the earthe with his fote, and pullinge as though he would ringe a bell, with diverse other ſignes approved."

The names of the vicars of this church I have gathered from the churchwardens book, and occur with dates as follow: 1544, Thomas Skypton. 1549, William Bradley. 1551, Richard Bowghton. 1555, ——— Hobbs. 1563, ——— Browne. 1611, ——— Holmes. 1638, Walter Walker. 1641, Thomas White. 1646, Grace Miniſter (*a*). 1640, Thomas Palmer, of London, elected in his room. 1646, Thomas Daffy. 1648, a Mr. Price. 1652, Mr. Pike. 1653, Chriſtopher Wright. 1656, William Barton. 1679, John Newton. 1698, —— Wood. 1700, Samuel Carte. 1739, Guſtavus Broughton. 1753, Thomas Haines. 1786, Joſeph Gregory.

In Pope Nicholas's taxation this church was thus valued:

"Eccleſiæ Sancti Martini 11 marc', vicar' ejuſdem 7 marc', æſtimatio obventionum Sanctæ Crucis in eadem eccleſia 10 marc'."

William Charyte, in his Rentale, fol. 88, ſeu 97, col. 1, treating of the profits which the Abbey, to which this church was appropriated, received from it, ſays, "Eccleſia Sancti Martini reſpondet communibus annis circa 21l. Solebat reddere 36l. 40l. vel quater viginti decem libras, ſcil', ut in anno Domini 1348. Nam circa illum annum Domini pixis vocat' reddebat 10l. 11l. vel 12l. & quandoque 30, & ultra. Pes Thomæ Lancaſtr' reſpondit 6l. 10s. Alta Crux reddebat 11l. Pes Crucis reddebat 10l. 11l. vel 12l."

(*a*) It does not appear that he was vicar, for there was a vote at a pariſh meeting to chooſe another, becauſe he would not aſſure the pariſh that he would ſtay. There was a good deal of riding about for clergy to preach about this time.

Whatever the profits were that belonged to the Abbey, they were veſted in the crown upon the diſſolution, and by it were transferred to the vicar for the annual rent of 5l. whereof 3l. ſtill veſts in the Crown, and the other 2l. per annum has been paid to ſeveral proprietors ſucceſſively ſince the purchaſe of them from the Crown in King Charles the Second's time. The 3l. ſtill reſting in the Crown ſerves to quit the 3l. penſion which by the crown is payable to the vicar.

As to the vicarage, William Charyte, ibid. col. 2. ſays, "Ordinatio ejus per Hugonem epiſcopum facta eſt, ut vicarius eccleſiæ Sancti Martini habeat ad veſtitum ſuum 2 marc' de portionibus altaris, per manum abbatis Leiceſtr' ſolvend', & legata uſque ad 6d. & quolibet die ſolenni 1d. Habebit victum ſuum in abbathia in omnibus ut canonicus, & diaconus ſuus ſicut major ſerviens in abbathia; & unum dimidium marc' pro ſtipendio. Præterea habebit panem ad garcionem ſuum qui ei ſerviet. Abbas providebit ei manſum competent', et ſuſtinebit onera eccleſiæ debita & conſueta."

After this there were ſeveral compoſitions, or agreements, made between the abbot and the vicar for his better ſubſiſtence; and, whereas he had no certain houſe belonging to him, he was allowed 8s. per annum, to provide himſelf an habitation, till William Charyte, being prior of the abbey, Jan. 1, 1457, purchaſed from William Wyſtow, of Great Petelyng, a meſſuage, with the appurtenances, ſituate between the tenement lately of Roger Belgrave on the South, and the tenement of Corpus Chriſti chantry on the North ſide, which is ſaid to be worth 16s. per annum. Whereupon William Charyte ſays, "Modo vicarius habet manſum honeſtum & appropriatum, & 2s. qualibet ſeptimana per manus procuratoris, & 6d. in die Omnium Sanctorum, 6d. in die Nativitatis Domini, 6d. in die Paſchal', & 6d. in die Dedication', per manus ſubſcellar'. Item habet omnes decimas minutas, omnes denarios Romanos, & omnia oblata ad crucem in vigilia paſchatis & in die." And fol. 247, ſeu 215, col. 2, he ſays, "Vicarius Sancti Martini

dictos denarios [Sancti Petri] colligit, et eos ad proprios usus conservat. Et nos pro ipso dictos denarios archidiacono persolvimus." And a little lower,

"Abbas solvet, { Ecclesia Sancti Martini, Leyc', 9s. 10d. ob. qa. / Ecclesia Sanctæ Mariæ, 9s. 10d. ob. qa. / Ecclesia Sancti Leonardi, 9s. 10d. ob. qa. } pro procurationibus synodalibus & denariis Sancti Petri."

This church is now in the gift of the Crown.

In addition to the living, a lectureship was founded here in the last century, worth 20l. per annum. And the land left for week-day prayers brings in 40l. per annum (*a*). In the king's book 6l. 13s. 4d.; but it is supposed worth upwards of 200l. including subscription, &c.

In this church, as in others, is a tablet of gifts to the poor; but none of them of great note.

The most notable interments are as follow.

THE CHANCEL.

Mr. Carte, the late vicar, is remembered near the altar on a flat stone, with a good character; and it says, he died "in full assurance of a joyful resurrection." (See page 182).

John Whatton of the Newark, "an esquire of the body of Charles the First, died in 1656;" to whose memory is erected a large monument, with the busts of his two wives, and himself in the middle. It has a long inscription full of praise, in verse, which ends presumptuously thus:

"A stranger's life i' th' world he spent,
Till to his glorious home he went;
Where now to him the freedom's given,
To be a denizen of heaven."

(*a*) In a corporation book, Payde Mr. Holmes for reading prayers according to Mr. Tamworth's will, which began the 24th of June, 1626, for his quarterage, 1l.13s. 4d. June 11, 1625, Mr. Angell began the weekly lecture in St. Martin's church, in Leicester."—*Book of Mayors.*

On

On an arch, in the chancel, is a little figure of a man kneeling at a reading-deſk, with

" James Andrew.
Anagram,
Rede I was man.

The Rev. James Harryman, M. A. rector of Peckleton, in this county, has a monument to his memory. " He was poſſeſſed," it ſays, " of many ſhining qualities," and died in 1743, aged ſixty. Near it is remembered Edmund Cradock, who died in 1716, aged 76. A tablet remembers the late Mr. Walker, ſurgeon and apothecary, a gentleman of fortune and reſpectability (*a*). A neat monument remembers George, ſon of Gabriel Newton, gent. who founded the Green-coat ſchool in this place. He died, at the age of 18, in 1746. The buſt of this young man is placed between the buſts of two females, the execution not of the ordinary ſort. It informs us that the father, with a pious intention, cloathed thirty-five poor boys, ſettling 3250l. for a perpetual ſupport (*b*).

Near the laſt named is one with this inſcription:

" Here lie depoſited
the remains of
JOSEPH CRADOCK, (*c*)
who was born
the 17th of Nov. 1689,
and died
the 20th of April 1759.
" Enough that virtue fill'd the ſpace between,
Prov'd by the end of being to have been."

POPE.

(*a*) See the note, page 201. (*b*) See p. 187.

(*c*) This gentleman was father to Joſeph Cradock, Eſq. of Gumley.

Above

Above which, the late vicar, Mr. Haines, is noticed on a neat tablet thus :

" Juxta conditur quod reliquum eſt Thomæ Haines Omnium Sanctorum in Annos quadraginta, hujus eccleſiæ in triginta et amplius vicarii. Et Hominem, et Miniſtrum Chriſti contemplator ! In omni vitâ ſuo fungi officio conatus eſt. Obiit Ann. Dom. 1786. Ætatis ſuæ 65." A tablet alſo remembers the late Ald. Weſtley, who was twice mayor ; and another the late Mrs. Hill, wife of William Hill, Eſq. of Leiceſter. The late Mr. Bentley, banker, is remembered on a floor-ſtone, who died in 1784, aged 83. And a ſmall tablet remembers John Gregory, who was mayor in 1779, and died, in 1789, in London, an active citizen.

At the entrance of the chancel, Nicholas Throſby is remembered, who was mayor in 1759, and died at the age of 84, in 1782 (*a*).— Oppoſite to which is a beautiful figure of Hope, done by *Bacon,* in fine marble, to the memory of Mr. John Johnſon, late of this pariſh, and Frances his wife. He died in 1780, aged 72. This charming little monument bears this dutiful injunction, " Honour thy father and mother." A modeſt apology of the ſon, John Johnſon, Eſq. now an eminent banker in London, for erecting this maſterly piece of ſtatuary to the memory of his aged parents, which does equal honour to the church, the ſtatuary, and himſelf.

Juſt without the chancel, a large tablet is placed, full of a laboured inſcription, to inform poſterity that Thomas Phipps, who was mayor in the year 1749, and died in 1768, lived and died as became a Chriſtian. Oppoſite to which is another, which juſt mentions Thomas Farmer, gent. and others of the family ; he died in 1771, aged 63. Underneath the laſt mentioned, on a floor-ſtone, lies the body of Martha Sanſom, relict of Arnold Sanſom, Eſq. and only ſiſter of Lieutenant Colonel Sir Thomas Fowke. " This ſtone can only tell, in a few

(*a*) Father to the Writer of theſe ſheets.

words,

words, what would require a hiſtory to relate." It goes on to inform you, that "ſhe was a poeteſs, and admired by the good, the witty, and the learned. She died in 1735-6. The South wall of the chancell bears a truly poetical and elegant piece of poetry to the memory of Mary Lettice, who died in 1770, aged 34, ſaid to be written by her brother, a clergyman:

"Now ſhould the tomb the ſtranger's ſtep arreſt,
The virtues of its tenant to proclaim,
He'd judge the eulogy by flattery dreſt,
Or oſtentation catching at a name.
Then ſilent reſt her unambitious tomb,
She needs no fame ſepulchral praiſes breathe,
Affliction drops its tribute in their room,
And her own conſcience twines th' immortal wreath."

In what is called *Heyrick's chancel* lie ſeveral of that family; but as it is impoſſible, within the limits of this hiſtory, to notice every inſcription in the churches and church-yards of Leiceſter, I ſhall content myſelf, and, I hope, my readers, with thoſe moſt worthy of obſervation, among which is this remarkable one:

"Here lieth buried the bodie of John Heyricke, of this pariſh, who departed this life the 2d of Aprill, 1589, beinge about ye age of 76. He did marry Marie, the daughter of John Bond, of Wardend, in the county of Warwicke, Eſq. who lived with the ſaid Marie, in one houſe, full 52 years, and in all that tyme never buried man, woman, nor childe, though they were ſometimes 20 in houſhold. He had yſſue by the ſaid Marie 5 ſons and 7 daughters, viz. Robert, Nicholas, Thomas, John, and William; and daughters Urſula, Agnes, Marie, Elizabeth, Ellen, Chriſtian, and Alice. The ſaid John was maior of the towne in the year 1559, and ogain in 1572. The ſaid Marie departed this life the 8th of December, 1611, beinge of the age of 97 yeares. Shee did ſee before her departure, of her children, and children's children, and their children, to the number of 142."

See her portrait, p. 175, No 5.; and a likeneſs of her ſignature, and her huſband's, fig. 1, and 2, facing page 114 (*a*).

(*a*) Her ſignature is to the following letter to her ſon William, then dwelling in London, dated 1578.

"William; With my heartye comendationes, and glade to heare of youre good health. And this is to give you thankesfor my povndgarnyte, and red heayrings yow ſent me, willinyng yow to geve my dauyther Havſs thankes for the povndegarnyte, and box of marmalette that ſhe ſent me. Furthermore, I have ſent yow a payre off knyte hoſes, and a payre of knyte gerſy gloves. I wolde have yow ſende me worde howe they ſerve youe, for yfe the glovffes be to little for youe, youe ſholde geve them to one of youre brother Haweſſes children; and I wolde have yow ſende me another payre. Alſo, I wolde have yow ſend me worde yff yow can, whither youre ſiſter Leechworth will cume to Leceſter, between this and Criſmas or no. Thus I leave for this tyme, praying to God to bleſſe yow, and kepe yow allwayes in his feare and knowledge, by youre lovinge mother to her power.

MARY ERYCKE.

Her 142 children, and children's children, and their children, living at one time before her death, are as follow; enumerated by William Heryck, of Baumoner, Eſq. in 1688.

Sons and daughters — —	12
1. *Urſula*, married to James Hawes, Lord Mayor of London, in 1574, had iſſue — —	7
2. *Agnes*, married to —— Davye, had	2
3. *Robert* thrice mayor of Leiceſter, had	11
4. *Mary*, married to Sir Thomas Bennet, knight, had none	
5. *Nicholas* had — —	7
6. *Elizabeth*, married to John Stamford, Eſq. repreſentative in parliament for this borough in two ſeſſions, had —	7
7. *Hellen*, married to Mr. Holden, had	5
8. *Thomas*, none	
9. *Chriſtiana*, married to Mr. Brooks	7
10. *John*, had — —	2
11. *William* (Sir William Heyrick, Kt.) had — —	8
12 *Alice*, married to Mr. Hinde, had	8
	76

Mrs. Hawes's Iſſue.	
Mr. G. Hawes had —	5
Mr. Humphrey had —	7
Mr. John had —	4
Mrs. Williams had —	6
Mrs. Davye's.	
Mr. William Davye had —	3
Mr. Robert Erick's Iſſue.	
Mrs. Sacheverel had —	4
Mr. Tobias Erick had —	3
Mrs. Norrington had —	3
Mrs. Andrew had —	6
Mrs. Rogers had —	5
Mrs. Noble — —	5
Mrs. Wheeler —	4
Mrs. Stanford's Iſſue.	
Mr. John Stanford had —	3
Mrs. Bent had —	5
Mrs. Pearſon had —	4
	67
	76
	143

One more than the ſtone calls for.

Of

Of this family are buried here, are, "Robert Heyrick, ironmonger, and twice mayor of Leiceſter," and Sir William Heyrick of Beaumanor. The former died in 1618, aged 78 years; the latter in 1652, aged 90.

A ſmall monument here remembers "G. Heyricke, who died in 1697, aged 32." Stones alſo remember the preſent Town Clerk's grand-father, and the father of William Heyrick of Knighton, Eſq. ſome time Town Clerk, all deſcended originally from the ſame family (*a*).

George

(*a*) I have given in my Leiceſterſhire Views a pretty full pedigree of this antient and reſpectable family, who derive their lineage from Erick the foreſter, a great commander, who oppoſed the landing of William the Conqueror. This veteran retired into Leiceſterſhire, in his old age, after being employed in the ſervice of the Conqueror, where his deſcendants, in ſucceſſion, have continued ever ſince. From him deſcended John Erick, of Stretton, who left iſſue Robert, whoſe ſon Robert was Biſhop of Cheſter (otherwiſe called Lichfield and Coventry); and Sir Wm. Eyrick, lord of Stretton. John, and Adelena. In 1360, 34 Edward III. this biſhop founded a chantry in the chapel of St. Giles, Great Stretton, in the pariſh of Great Glenn, and taking the name of Robert de Stretton amply endowed it in the ſecond year of Richard the Second (the deed bearing date Sept. the 4th, 1378), with 198 acres of land in Great Stretton. This family had a conſiderable grant of land near Leiceſter ſo far back as the reign of King John. A Nicholas Heyrick was mayor of Leiceſter the ſixth year of Edward VI. Others of note, deſcendants, beſide thoſe noticed above, were Robert and Richard, ſons of Sir William Heyrick; the former was fellow of All Souls College, Oxford, patronized by the earl of Exeter, and numbered among the ſuffering Loyaliſts in the laſt century; the latter was alſo fellow of All-Souls, Oxford, and warden of Chriſt's College, Manchеſter, by the appointment of Charles the Firſt. William, the eldeſt ſon of Sir William Heyrick, was commiſſioned, by Charles the Firſt. about the repairs of Leiceſter caſtle, and putting it into a ſtate of defence, prior to the troubles of his reign. This gentleman, for his attachment to the royal cauſe, was a conſiderable ſufferer in the iſſue. Branches of this family have lived in the neighbourhood, and in Leiceſter, for centuries, who are allied, by marriage, to many of the firſt families who at times have lived in theſe parts.

The father of Dean Swift was named Jonathan, and was the ſon of Thomas Swift, eminent for his loyalty to Charles the Firſt. The Dean's father married Mrs. Abigal Erick, deſcendant of this family. She brought her huſband little or no fortune; and Mr. Swift dying two years after his marriage, left his widow in narrow circumſtances, and with child of the famous Dean Swift, who was born A. D. 1667, ſeven months after his father's death. *Eſſay on the Life of Dean Swift.*

The Dean's mother, it is ſaid, was greatly beloved by all the family of the Swifts. She was extremely

George Bent, who was twice Mayor of Leiceſter, has a monument to his memory; he died in 1709, aged 75. Francis Noble, alſo, who was twice mayor of Leiceſter, is remembered: he died in 1689, aged ſeventy-eight.

A ſtone againſt the South door is placed to the memory of "Philip Hacket, gent." ſon of a clergyman, proctor of the Eccleſiaſtical court of the Archdeaconry of Leiceſter, and pariſh clerk of St. Martin upwards of thirty-years. He was killed by a fall from his horſe. The praiſe which is laviſhly beſtowed on his memory was written by Mr. Bickerſtaff, at the requeſt of his ſon, who had been favoured by the father's will: the injunction was, "Say every thing that is good, Bickerſtaff." It ſays abundantly too much for any mortal. Mr. Bickerſtaff, whenever he quarelled with this favourite ſon, uſed to tell him that he had *white-waſhed* the family.

A piece of neat marble remembers Samuel Simpſon, alderman, and once mayor, who died lately. He perhaps was the firſt, and probably may be laſt, alderman in Leiceſter, a reader of the Old Teſtament in the original.

The only thing I ſhall notice more, in this church-yard, is the ſtone placed to the memory of the unfortunate young man, ſhot by the

tremely polite, chearful, and agreeable in converſation; generous, and exact in her religious duties. She reſided in Leiceſter. Mr. Cradock, of Gumley, informed me that he has learnt that ſhe lived in a houſe in the High-ſtreet, where Mr. Hill reſided; and that within a few years the Dean's name, written by himſelf, was on one of the windows. I have been alſo told that ſhe lived at the houſe in Gallow-tree-gate, now occupied by a patten-maker, near Mr. Mansfield's bank. Others have ſaid (one of which is my mother, in the 92d year of her age) that ſhe lived at a houſe oppoſite the conduit where the houſe now ſtands, occupied by Mr. Leman, draper; probably ſhe might at times have apartments in all theſe places, as an occupier only of ſome of the rooms. She dreſſed for the whole day at ſix o'clock in the morning. Her amuſements were needle-work and reading. Her annuity was 20l. per annum; but to this was added frequent preſents from her huſband's relations, who often viſited her. She lived contentedly, and died old; and ſhe often declared that ſhe, with her ſlender income, was rich and happy. The Dean himſelf viſited always once a year, at leaſt, at Leiceſter; and theſe journies he often made in a carrier's waggon, in all ſorts of company, and would ſleep at the common inns. At theſe times he attended the corporation feſtivals if they happened during his ſtay, and was a frequent viſitor at the table of Sir George Beaumont, at Stoughton.

the French teacher. See page 167. The inſcription was written by Mr. Rozzel, of Leiceſter. It has been conſidered a libel on the conſtitution, and on the judge and jury who tried the offender. It was, by the late archdeacon Bickham, ordered to be taken down; but at preſent it remains.—The inſcription:

" Enquiring mortal
whoe'er thou art,
Ponder here on an incident,
Which highly concerns
All the progeny of Adam.
Near this place lieth the body of
JOHN FENTON,
Who fell by violence, May 17, 1778,
And remains a ſad example
of the incompetency
of juridical inſtitutions
to puniſh a murderer!

He left, to mourn his untimely fate,
a mother, a widow and two children.
Theſe,
but not theſe alone,
are greatly injured;
Perſonal ſecurity
received a mortal wound
when vengeance was averted
from his aſſaſſin
by the ſophiſtical refiners
of natural juſtice.
Obiit anno ætatis ſuæ 39."

Early in the year 1784, in digging a grave for a Miſs Boſs, which was requeſted to be made conſiderably deeper than uſual, under one of the arches which ſupport the ſteeple of the church, the ſexton diſcovered an immoderate quantity of bones of oxen, or of the largeſt quadruped race, which ſeemed to have been laid there at ſome very remote period, from their decayed ſtate. The enamel of thoſe teeth (which I have ſome of) are as perfect as of a beaſt juſt killed. They lay in all directions, as if caſt in without order.

Upon the ground where now ſtands the church, probably ſtood an Heathen temple (ſee *Jewry-Wall*), and theſe bones might be the remains of the ſacrifices.

Mr. Brander gives an account, in the fourth volume of the Archæologia, of a ſimilar diſcovery in Chriſt-church priory, Hampſhire, with this difference, that the bones found there were thoſe of birds. That place, he apprehends, was once a Pagan temple.

A chantry belonging to this church was part of the houſe occupied by Mr. Stephens, in High Croſs-ſtreet, where is now well pre-

ſerved, in the hall and kitchen, which was formerly one room, a long range of lights, containing a regular ſeries of antient paintings upon glaſs. I copied them ſome time ſince for the uſe of my friend Mr. Nichols, for his Collections: who has obligingly lent me the plates for this work. The ſubjects are:

1. St. Margaret.
2. St. Chriſtopher.
3. St. Catharine.
4. St. George.
5. The Annunciation.
6. The birth of the Virgin Mary.
7. The Wiſe Men's Offering.
8. The Preſentation in the Temple.
9. The Reſurrection.
10. The Aſcenſion.
11. The Transfiguration.
12. The Elevation of the Hoſt.
13. The Aſſumption.
14. Part of the ſame.
15. Marriage.
16. Baptiſm.
17. Confirmation.
18. Ordination.
19. Penance.
20. Extreme Unction.
21. Viſiting the Sick.
22. Burial of the Dead.
23. The Trinity.
24. Releaſing the Priſoner.
25. Relieving the Hungry and Thirſty.
26. Cloathing the Naked.
27. Creſt of the Town Arms.
28. The Town Arms.

"The ſaid chantry was founded by William Humberſtone and John Ive the younger, under the lycens of king Edward III. to th' entente to find IIII prieſts to celebrate divine ſervice within the pariſh church of St. Martin in Leiceſter, and to pray for the founders ſouls; in which pariſh is 6 houſelyng people, and no more prieſts, but only the vicar, whoſe ſtipend or lyvyng ys ſo ſore decayed that he ys not able to fynde any other prieſt to ſerve there, ſo that without the help of the ſaid chantry prieſts many of the ſaid pariſhoners in time of ſickneſs ſhall be like to periſh withowte the rights of the church; alſo the churchwardens, with eleven other houſemen of the ſaid pariſh,

1



2



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4





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6



Painted Glass at Mr. Stephens's Leicester.

Throsby del. 1788.

Royce sc.

G.R. III.
BRITISH MUSEUM

7



8



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This Figure & part of 13. are cover'd by a wall.

16

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20

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27



21



28



22



23



21



25



26




G.R.
III

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To face Page 176

All Saints Church Font



In the Chapel of Trinity Hospital



St Mary's



Bishop Penny's Tomb



hath the preſentation and election of the ſame; and at this preſent time there are but two of the ſaid four prieſts ſinging, for that the rents of the ſame are ſo far in decay and loſs of rent than they have been heretofore; and there hath been no lands ſold, &c.; and an inventory, &c."

St. Sepulchre and St. James.

"Capella Sancti Sepulchri extra muros ſpectat ad eccleſiam Sanctæ Mariæ de Caſtello, et eſt propria canonicorum iſidem, et debet deſerviri per capellanum eorundem."

The chapel of St. Sepulchre ſtood near where the preſent infirmary ſtands; where, as Mr. Carte obſerves, the people who died at the gallows uſed to be buried. The gallows ſtood near.

St. James's chapel had ſome walls ſtanding, by Mr. Carte's account, within the memory of people living in his time. From a deſcription of the wards of the town, in a Hall-book, 1 Richard III. he concludes that St. James's chapel ſtood near St. Sepulchre's. The Hall-book ſays, that "the ward extended from the South-gate to St. Sepulchre's church." And in another Hall-book, 4th and 5th Philip and Mary, the ſame ward is deſcribed to extend "from the South-gate to St. James's chapel." They, doubtleſs, were both as one, or they ſtood near each other.

St. Margaret's.

"Eccleſiæ Sanctæ Margaretæ extra muros patronus epiſc' Lincoln, et eſt prebenda Lincoln'."

Leland, in his paſſage through Leiceſter, called St. Margaret's "the faireſt church in that place, which once was a cathedral church, and near which, he obſerved, the biſhop of Lincoln had a palace, whereof little yet ſtandeth." This church, like many others, has a nave and two ſide ailes: the ailes are lofty and ſpacious, as is

alſo

alſo the chancel. The altar-piece of the latter conſiſts of an indifferent whole-length painting of Moſes and Aaron: at the entrance of the oppoſite door, the figures, notwithſtanding, give the church an air of grandeur. It is very viſible that this church, like ſome others in the town, is the patchwork of different ages. The tower, which now contains ten, highly eſteemed, muſical bells, gives a noble appearance to Leiceſter, from the Abbey meadow, and Burſtall hill; and upon the whole, it is a fine lofty pile of ſtrength, ſymmetry, and beauty (*a*). The fine niche over the Weſt door, lately filled with a vaſe, ſhould have been the receſs of a ſtatue of St. Margaret, or ſome reverend bearded Saint (*b*).

The confeſſionary, opening into the veſtry, is very perfect; and on the left of the altar, is a ſmall figure of a man, in a reclining poſture. On the other ſide, in uniformity to this, is a niche, which might alſo contain a figure: underneath is a lion couchant. The organ, which was finiſhed in 1773, looks well, but ſounds, it is ſaid, indifferently.

Within was a Guild very rich, "for which I have ſeen," ſays Mr. Carte, "a memorandum of a patent granted 16 Richard II (*c*)." When all the other churches in Leiceſter were ſettled by the founder of the abbey upon that houſe, this did not belong to the earl of Leiceſter, but to the biſhop of Lincoln; conſequently it eſcaped being ſettled upon that abbey. It, with Knighton, is exempted from the juriſdiction of the archdeaconry of Leiceſter. In the church windows are ſome

(*a*) "The bells," ſays Mr. Carte, "have been many years celebrated for one of the moſt tuneable ring of bells in England; and about four years ago two more were added, ſo that now there are eight."

(*b*) That the ſteeple was built in 1444, is evident from the regiſter of biſhop Alnwyke, fol. 48, which expreſſly mentions its reparation by a tax or levy of Smoke-farthings.

(*c*) Mr. Carte ſays that this Guild joined with Corpus Chriſti, at St. Martin's, in defraying public charges. And he further conjectures, that the ſolemn proceſſion annually to St. Margaret's, occaſioned that Bread-ſtreet, was called Sanvy-gate, from the words *ſancta via*.

remains

remains of painted glaſs, but none of any conſequence. The tables which contain gifts to the poor retain nothing of great importance.

Among the dead which have been buried within the walls of this church, was biſhop John Penny, whoſe monument, in alabaſter, ſtill remains, but without an inſcription for him. He is figured thereon in his epiſcopal habit, with a ring on the fourth finger of his right hand, and two on fingers of the left. This biſhop is renowned for being a great benefactor towards the repairs or rebuilding of the church, and of ſome new works at the abbey, Leiceſter. He was abbot of Leiceſter; and biſhop of Bangor in 1504; of Carliſle in 1509, and died at Leiceſter abbey 1520. His body, by his own direction, was buried in this church.

Burton mentions a marble monument of John Middleton, a biſhop; nothing of which remains. The family of Major have given an odd inſcription:

"Mariæ uxoris Antonii Major, generoſi, quod in terris reliquum eſt, vicino requieſcit pulvere, pientiſſimæ viri animæ, non indignum domicilium quod ut meliori potiretur, libentiſſimè reſignavit, quarto die Septembris, Anno Domini 1649.

Maria Major,
Anagramma,
Jam ira amor.

Now anger's changed to love; now death, which is
The wage of ſin, becomes the way of bliſs.
See what the ſoveraigne vertue of Chriſt's blood
Can do; make croſſes crowns, and poyſon food."

Here is a neat monument, which was ſome time railed in, to the memory of Mr. John Farmer, Attorney at Law, and ſolicitor of the corporation: it informs you that he was a man of integrity in his profeſſion, and extenſive charity. He died in 1737, aged 54. William Burleton, Eſq. Doctor of Laws, a Barriſter in the commiſſion of the

the peace for this and other counties, and recorder of this borough, died in 1786, aged 64 (*a*).

Here are ſeveral tablets lately placed againſt the walls of this church, in a pretty monumental ſtyle, which notice the deaths of ſeveral females, wives of ſome of the reſpectable inhabitants of this pariſh: among which are one for Mrs. Miles, wife of Mr. Alderman John Miles, ſhe died in 1772, aged 57; another for the wife of Mr. William Biſhop, who died in 1787, aged 52; and another for Mary, the wife of Mr. Mansfield, banker; ſhe died in 1787, aged 43.

On ſomething like the ſtyle of theſe monumental tablets, is remembered Theophilus Holmes, who died in 1785, aged 34. William Nutt, Eſq. of the county of Middleſex, who died in 1788, aged 63; and John Fox, ſurgeon, who died in 1787, aged 59.

Thoſe who are buried in this church, may be ſaid, truly, to lie in a watery grave: the land-ſprings often half fill them before the interment. The family of *Pares*, who have upwards of a century ranked in the firſt claſs of the inhabitants of Leiceſter, have a vault within this church, as watery and comfortleſs as a well. Mr. Bickerſtaff wittingly and properly ſaid once, that the graves within and without, remind us of the Stygian ferry, as they are ſo frequently navigable.

Without, among the almoſt numberleſs interments, is a monument or tomb placed to the memory of the Right Honourable Andrew Lord Rollo, a Scots peer, who died at Leiceſter in 1765, in the 61ſt year of his age, on his way to Briſtol, for the recovery of his health. It informs you (as the Hiſtory of England will) that he was a Brigadier General in 1761, and aſſiſted in the reduction of the iſland of Dominique, and the ſieges of Martinique and the Havannah. His tomb was built on a large ſcale, and not deſtitute of grand deſign; but put together in ſo ſhameful a manner, that it is now a mere wreck or ruin. The fall of a portion of it lately, nearly coſt a little boy,

(*a*) This gentleman ſerved many years in the Leiceſterſhire militia, in which he was major, under the honourable Colonel Grey, and left the ſervice on ſome difference with that gentleman.

playing

playing under it, his life: he has a limb much ſhattered. May this obſervation meet the eye of ſome friend of the family of Rollo, or be read by ſome of the worthy inhabitants of this town, who may have ability and inclination, by ſubſcription or otherwiſe, to re-unite the parts of his tomb, that it may ſtand, not only an honourable token of eſteem to a brave commander, but a diſplay of amiable liberality.

Vicars.

Edward Blunt. Y. Dixey, 1659. William Simms, 1669. Tho. Stanhope. John Kilby died 1730. Joſeph Kilbye preſented in 1730. Andrew Burnaby in 1738. To him ſucceeded his ſon Robert, in the commiſſion of the peace, who reſigned in 1788, in favour of *his* ſon Robert Burnaby, whoſe uncle is archdeacon of Leiceſter, and vicar of Greenwich.

Patron, biſhop of Lincoln; a prebendary in Lincoln cathedral.

King's books, 27l. 6s. 3d. computed to be worth nearly 300l. per annum.

St. Augustine.

" Another church I find mentioned," ſays Mr. Carte, " is Eccleſia S'ti Auguſtini Leyceſt'." And in the Rentale before noticed, he ſays, he met with this memorandum: " Quod eccleſia de Coſby pertinuit ad eccleſiam St. Auguſtini, ſita fuerat ad orientalem partem cancellæ eccleſiæ Nicolai Leiceſt'; et erat ipſa eccleſia conſtituta ſub duobus tectis conjunctis ſuper medias columnas, cujus una pars erat dedicata S'to Auguſtino et altera S'to Columbo; modo nominatur *Holybones*, Leyc'." Upon this, ſays Mr. Carte, my conjecture or opinion is, that the church was dedicated to St. Auguſtin the monk, who converted the Engliſh Saxons; and to Columbus, or Columbinus, who converted the Picts in Scotland. It was not a pariſh church; and therefore the church of Coſby, lying five miles diſtant, was appropriated to the

maintenance of it. I reckon (continues he) that it was demoliſhed at the Conqueſt, or in the troubles enſuing, 1088; and therefore the church of Coſby was freed from the charge of maintaining it, and was given to the abbey by the founder. N. B. It was a general cuſtom to bury the reliques or bones of ſome martyr, in the place where churches were erected, and I ſuppoſe that, after the demolition of the church, ſome attempt being made to find the bones here depoſited, and they not being found, it was ſaid that the holy bones were ſtill there, and that from thence the place came to be called *Holy Bones*, as it is to this day."

Againſt this opinion of Mr. Carte ariſes another. How happens it that many bones of oxen, or beaſts, are ſo frequently dug up in this place, which is known to every inhabitant? To account for this circumſtance, as a depoſit of modern times, is more objectionable than the general opinion that the bones, which appear to have lain there for many ages, were thoſe of the mangled ſacrifices to the gods of the heathens. Mr. Carte, who reſided long in Leiceſter, and took ſome laudable pains about its hiſtory, muſt have been informed of this great depoſit of the bones of beaſts, and of their frequent diſcovery; but why he with-held the noticing it in this place, I wonder much.

St. John Baptist's Chapel,

Stood without the town, at the lower end of the Belgrave gate (*a*). Of its magnitude or age, we know but little. It belonged, or was attached to, the hoſpital of St. John (*b*). Mr. Carte was once of opinion

(*a*) See page 46. (*b*) In the church belonging to the hoſpital of St. John was founded the Guild, by Peers Celler and his wife, as is ſuppoſed, becauſe their ſouls are ordered to be prayed for particularly, in an agreement made Sept. 20, 17 Edward IV. between Sir Robert Syleby, maſter of the hoſpital, and Richard Wiggeſton, ſteward of the Gild, whereby the ſteward of the Gild was bound to find a prieſt to ſay maſs in the Gild-chapel of St. John, and two days in the week in the chapel of St. John at the town's end of Leiceſter, except the maſter will at any time

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Pl XVI



LEICESTER and its ABBEY.

Publish'd by J. THROSBY, *Leicester. Nov.r 6.th 1790, & Sold by W. Walker, Rosomans St. London.*

opinion that St. John's ſtood on the Weſt ſide of the town; but afterwards concluded that it ſtood ſomewhere near, or in the Belgrave gate. I have ſeen it mentioned in the corporation books in two or three inſtances, as ſtanding "without the town," or at "the nether end of Belgrave gate." I judge that it ſtood not a long way from the hoſpital houſe. Leland, in his deſcription of the river Soar, mentions "the Biſhop's water," as being that little ſtream which runs under Lady-bridge, on the back of the ſpital houſe. Leland ſays, "By Biſhop's water is a chappel longging to the hoſpital of St. John."

Leicester Abbey.

Of this rich and eminent religious ſanctuary I have ſaid much in the Leiceſterſhire Views. I ſhall treat this ſubject here, in conſequence, rather briefly; noticing, however, with preciſion, the principal events of its hiſtory.

The great abbey was founded in the year 1143, by Robert Boſſu, earl of Leiceſter, in honour of the Virgin Mary, for ſuch monks as were regular canons of the order of St. Auguſtin. The founder, who had been in rebellion againſt his prince, and then advanced in years, built and endowed this houſe, and became a canon regular therein, in expiation of his crimes. He died in 1167, a member of this religious ſociety (*a*), and was there buried. Petronilla, wife of Ro-

time ſay maſs there himſelf; and when the maſter ſays maſs there, or ſhould be out of town, then the ſaid Gild-prieſt was to ſay maſs at the high altar of St. John, and read in the choir there, every holy-day in the year, divine ſervice, praying eſpecially for the ſouls of Peers Celler and his wife, and for the welfare and ſouls of all the members and benefactors of the gild. And the maſter was to give the ſaid gild-prieſt ſufficient meat and drink, or, in lieu thereof, 40s. yearly for his board; and the ſaid ſteward was to pay him the reſt of his ſalary, as he could agree with him, and find him a chamber within St. John.

(*a*) This is ſaid in the authority of Henry de Knighton (ſo called, becauſe born at Knighton, a neighbouring village); who was a canon of this houſe, and wrote the hiſtory of this country down to Richard II. in whoſe time he lived.

bert Blanchmaines, ſon of the founder, who was daughter of Hugh Grentemeſnill, built the church or chapel there. A plait of her hair was uſed with a pulley, to draw up the great lamp in the choir, long after her death, and was there ſhewn as a precious relick.

This church was ſolemnly dedicated in 1279.

The principal benefactors to this abbey, beſides the founder, were Henry duke of Lancaſter (afterwards King Henry IV.), Ralph, earl of Cheſhire, William Avenel, Robert Colls, Hugh de Ardenne, Margaret de Quincey, Roger de Quincey, Ernold de Bois, Ankell Malory, Ralph Purvill, Thomas Lathbury, Thomas Erdington, knights; and William Aſton (*a*). The liberties and immunities were wonderfully great. Beſides thirty-ſix pariſh churches in and about Leiceſter, it had lands, privileges, &c. in moſt of the manors in this and many other counties. The religious of this abbey had great bequeſts of deer, fuel, and feeding of cattle; fiſh-pools, cattle, fruits, and corn. Stoughton Grange, near Leiceſter, was the grand repoſitory of food for this houſe. Among the benefactors ſhould be remembered William Cloune, who was choſen abbot in 1345, and preſided thirty-two years; a man admired for his obliging manners and graceful aſpect. He obtained divers lands and poſſeſſions for the abbey, and procured a patent for the exemption of the abbots from ſitting in parliament, after they had been frequently ſummoned for that ſervice, then thought a burthen, now an honour obtained, often at an enormous expence. He alſo, by his addreſs, procured another privilege or exemption for this abbey. At the death of an abbot, the king's eſcheators uſed to ſeize on the poſſeſſions of the abbey within and without, and make conſiderable ſpoil till a new one was choſen, which he, on certain conditions, did away.

In 1357 a great difference happened between the abbot and John and Stephen Lawrence of Belgrave, brothers, and other inhabitants of

(*a*) Charity's Rentale.

that

that place, about the limits of the grounds called *Le Stocking*. Theſe people, in a riotous manner, in one night, pulled up the fences, ſtopped up the Foſsway, and the North bridge, to prevent the uſual ſupply of proviſions to the monaſtery. In conſequence, the abbot obtained the king's writ to try the offenders, twenty-five in number; whereupon John Lawrence, the ringleader, was fined 100l. and the others 10l. each, on condition they kept the peace, repaired the damages they had done, and releaſed the right claimed.

About ſeven years after, ſome thieves, with intent to rob the church, broke in through the window, over the altar of St. John the Evangeliſt; but were diſcovered time enough to prevent the robbery.

This place ſupported almoſt the whole poor of Leiceſter and its neighbourhood; it was on all preſſing occaſions ſubſidiary to the king, and hoſpitable to travellers, who were fed and often lodged here on their journies. Several kings of England were entertained and lodged here on their excurſions to and from the North. Richard II. and his queen, with their retinue, amongſt whom were the duke of Ireland, earl of Suffolk, archbiſhop of Canterbury, and ſeveral other great perſonages, were entertained and lodged here in a grand and ſumptuous ſtyle.

The abbots of this place, in ſucceſſion, were Richard ——, admitted 1144.—William de Kelewyke, 1167.—William de Brooke, 1173.—Paul ——, 1186.—William Peſſyn, 1205. —— Oſbert, 1224.—Matthias ——, 1229.—Allen de Cheſtreham, 1235.—Robert Femityn, 1244.—Henry Rothely, 1247.—William Schapiſhed, 1270. William Malverne, 1291.—Richard Towers, 1317.—William Clowne, 1345.—William Kirby, 1377.—Philip Repyndon, 1394.—Richard Rothely, 1405.—William Sadington, 1420.—John Pomery, 1442. John Shepiſhed, 1474.—Gilbert Mancheſter, 1485.—John Penny, 1496 (*a*)—Richard Pexall, 1509.—John Bouchier, 1534. This was

(*a*) See his monument noticed in St. Margaret's church, page 275. It is ſaid that he built that brick fence to the abbey grounds, ſeen in the abbey gate.

the laſt abbot. He oppoſed the mandate of the royal plunderer, Henry VIII. till he and his brethren were threatened with being charged with the fouleſt crimes, with beaſts and with each other. Such diabolical unjuſt meaſures were uſed by that tyrant's commiſſioners in many inſtances, to force the religious of ſimilar inſtitutions to give up their riches.

The following letter, written to Lord Cromwell by one of the commiſſioners ſoon after the ſurrender of this abbey, will inform the reader of ſome particulars which cannot fail to be acceptable.

" My moſt bounden dutye remembryd, this is to advertis youre good lordſhip of the hole eſtate of the late monaſtery of Leyceſter, in the wich we have taken the ſurrender and feyne of thabbot and convent, and the writinges thereof be in my cuſtodye. By your good lordſhippes goodnes towards me I now ame in poſſeſſion of the houſe and all the demeſnes wiche was unlett at the tyme of our repare thether. We alſo founde the houſe was indettyd to the kinges heyghnes whereof we make no reconinge of; and for the diſcharge thereof we have made a ſale of the ſtoke and ſtore, with the houſhold ſtuffe and ornaments of the churche, wiche amount unto 228l. The plate is onſolde, wiche maiſter Freman takith the charge of and is valuyd by weyght 190 pounds. The lead by eſtymacion is valuy'd at 1000l. the bells at 88l. For the diſchargeyne of thabbot convent and ſervants of the ſeide monaſtery there haithe beyne payde, as dothe apere more particularly by the bouk we ſend your lordſhippe, 149l. And for as moche as the abbot hathe not receyvyd of us in redy mony but 20l. he hath requyride me to deſyer your lordſhippe to be ſo good lorde unto him, as he may have 20 pounds or 20 marks, the church and houſe remeynythe as yet undefacede, and in the churche be many thynges to be made ſale of. For wiche that may pleſe your lordſhippe tc let me knowe yowre pleyſure; as well for the further ſale to be made, as for the defaſinge of the churche and other ſuperfluous byldinges wiche be abowt the monaſtery: a hundrithe marks yerly will not ſuſteyne the charges in repairing this houſe, that all byldings be lett ſtande as your lordſhippe ſhall know more hereafter. Thus I pray Jheſus longe to preſerve you in helthe with much honore.

" Written at the late monaſtery of Leyceſter the 29th day of Auguſte, by your lordſhippes moſt bownden ſervante. FRANCIS CAVE."

At

At the time of the ſurrender of this monaſtery, there remained in charge 3l. 6s. 8d. in fees, and 32l. 19s. 4d. in annuities; and when the king had finally ſeized the valuables of this abbey, and its large revenues, he ſettled penſions for life upon the following: John Bowchier, laſt abbot, 200l.; Richard Duckett, 10.; John Buckeſhame, 6l.; Richard Webbe, 6l.; John Laeye, 6l.; Hugh Sheppey, 5l. 6s. 8d.; John Revell, 5l. 6s. 8d.; George King, 5l. 6s. 8d.; William Parmoter, 5l.; James Lawe, 5l,; and Thomas Weſtus, 5l.

The death of the great and magnificent Cardinal Wolſey happened at this abbey Nov. 29, 1530, on his journey from York to London. He had juſt before been ſtripped of his dignities, and his pride wounded by his royal maſter, who theretofore had loaded him with riches, honour, and power, unequalled by the favours of princes. He was ſo weak and depreſſed when he came to the gate leading to the abbey (*a*), that he could only thank the abbot and monks for their civility, and tell them that he was come to lay his bones among them. He immediately took to his bed, and died three days afterwards.

The

(*a*) Now the waggon-road to Mr. Black's houſe. When Captain Groſe was about to publiſh his renowned Antiquities, I favoured him, at his requeſt, with a drawing or two of the abbey; ſoon after, he honoured me with the following letter, which, as it relates not only to the abbey and caſtle of Leiceſter, but carries with it an opinion of that great antiquary, I make no ſcruple of giving here: the letters of ſuch men, after death, are now eſteemed intereſting.

"SIR,

"By Mr. Hooper I was favoured with two of your paintings, one of which is called Leiceſter Abbey, the other Leiceſter Caſtle.

"With reſpect to the firſt, it was certainly the manſion of the earls of Devonſhire, built out of the ruins of the abbey, long after its diſſolution; this I gather from a MS. in the Britiſh Muſeum. It is likewiſe clearly proved by the ſtyle of building. I believe the only remains of the abbey are the gate and bounding walls. If you could favour me with a drawing of the gate, it would be extremely acceptable. I have a drawing of the manſion from nearly the ſame print as your picture, but did not chuſe to uſe it, from its ſimilarity to that publiſhed by Buck.

"Of the caſtle I can find very little in hiſtory, and leſs of its preſent ſtate. Could you be ſo good as to give me the particulars of its ſituation, dimenſions, proprietor, and any otherparticulars you think worth remarking?

"Nothing

The body of this diſtinguiſhed prelate grew ſo offenſive on the day ſucceeding his death, that they were obliged to bury it that night: prior to which, after a conſultation among the religious in the abbey, the abbot choſe to inform the mayor of Leiceſter, and his brethren the aldermen, of all the circumſtances that had happened concerning his death; and likewiſe deſired their advice and concurrence reſpecting the burial of ſo great a man. The mayor and his brethren, after being informed of the particulars of that event, attended the funeral in the evening with their formalities and in their uniforms. The abbot and the monks alſo, being deſirous of teſtifying their reſpects to one who had not only raiſed the nation to an envied eminence, but who had oppoſed with rigour the emerging reformation, appeared on the occaſion with the utmoſt ſolemnity of their religious order. The corpſe being brought to the grand entrance of the abbey in a plain wooden ſhell or coffin, in which was placed a mitre, ring, pall, and crucifix, the proceſſion began thence to the abbey-chapel, where the brethren in their monaſtic habits performed ſeveral pieces of ſolemn vocal muſic, ſuitable to the occaſion, at the interment.

It has been a received opinion in Leiceſter, that there was buried with him a conſiderable quantity of riches, which has cauſed the inhabitants of that place, at various times, to dig for them. The error has manifeſtly ariſen from the emblems of his dignities accompanying his body to the earth; which, if valuable, would not have been ſuffered long to remain there, as even the bowels of the earth were forced to yield their valuable contents to the avaricious Henry's commiſſioners ſoon after.

"Nothing but your goodneſs, in thus kindly furniſhing me with theſe pictures, could embolden me to make theſe requeſts. A drawing might be made, I hope, without much trouble.

"As a brother draughtſman, I ſhall be happy to repay your favour in kind, by ſending you a drawing or drawings of any piece of antiquity here about you may wiſh to ſee on paper; and am, with the greateſt reſpect,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

To Mr. Throſby, Leiceſter. FRANCIS GROSE.

This

This abbey was afterwards given by patent to Mr. Cavendiſh (*a*), for his fidelity to Wolſey, by the king, who it is believed was exceedingly ſorry for the ſevere ſteps he had taken againſt the cardinal.

Willis ſays, that this abbey was afterwards given to the marquis of Northampton in 1551, 4 Edward VI.

In the time of queen Elizabeth, the then earl of Huntingdon enjoyed it; but whether by purchaſe or not, I have not learned. However, in the ſucceeding reign, it returned to the Devonſhire family; and was the ſeat of the Counteſs of Devon, till the civil war in king Charles's time, when it was burnt, which fire left little more remaining than the walls.

While the Counteſs of Devon reſided at the abbey, her gardener, by digging, imagined he had made a diſcovery of Cardinal Wolſey's grave. But the Rev. Mr. Carte having converſed with that gardener's grandſon on the ſubject; my feelings, which ariſe from the reſpect I owe to his memory, dictate to me to give the reader that gentleman's words unmutilated, in preference to what I might be able to ſubſtitute.

"As to the great Cardinal Wolſey's ſepulchre, the beſt account which I have met with is from one Mr. John Haſloe, whoſe grandfather, Arthur Barefoot, was gardener to the Counteſs of Devonſhire, who lived in the abbey before the civil war. He tells me, that the church ſtood, part of it, in what is now a little garden, at the Eaſt end of it, in the orchard (which was formerly called the new garden) where his grandfather with others digging found ſeveral ſtone coffins, the cavities of which did not lay uppermoſt, but were inverted over the bodies. That one of theſe was taken up, about ſix feet one inch long, and four wide, and a foot deep; that it ſeemed very ſound at firſt, but when it was expoſed to the air ſoon mouldered away; that

(*a*) A conſtant attendant upon Cardinal Wolſey, as well in his proſperity as adverſity; the changes of fortune, which happened to his friend, made no unamiable impreſſion upon his virtuous, noble mind. He accompanied him alike in his diſgrace and in his affliction; and at laſt, in the ſad hour of death, his eminent feelings manifeſted his love by a ſilent, friendly tear.

he obſerved, that all of them had a round hole about the middle of them near five inches diameter, but for what end he could not tell. That among them he diſcovered Cardinal Wolſey's (Mr. Haſloe forgets by what means he knew it), which the Counteſs would not ſuffer to be ſtirred, but ordered it to be covered again." It ſeems remarkable, that the Cardinal's coffin ſhould be known among others, and that the reaſon why it was known ſhould be forgotten. Theſe coffins, I am apt to think, were laid there long before Cardinal Wolſey's time; very likely they might be thoſe of the founder and benefactors.

This abbey at the time of the ſuppreſſion was eſtimated to expend 1062l. a year.

The engraving facing this page is the South Weſt view, taken near Mr. Davy's dwelling. That facing this article is a fine view, taken in an oppoſite direction, which ſhews the modern gate to the Counteſs of Devon's dwelling. The grand and antient entrance, noticed by Captain Groſe, is ſtill entire, and I rather think the very gates are thoſe uſed at the diſſolution, conſequently thoſe through which Cardinal Wolſey entered.

This ruin, and a fine adjoining eſtate thereunto belonging, are the property of John Manners, Eſq. ſon of the late Lord William Manners, a gentleman well known for his extraordinary wealth.

St. Auguſtine, or Black Friars.

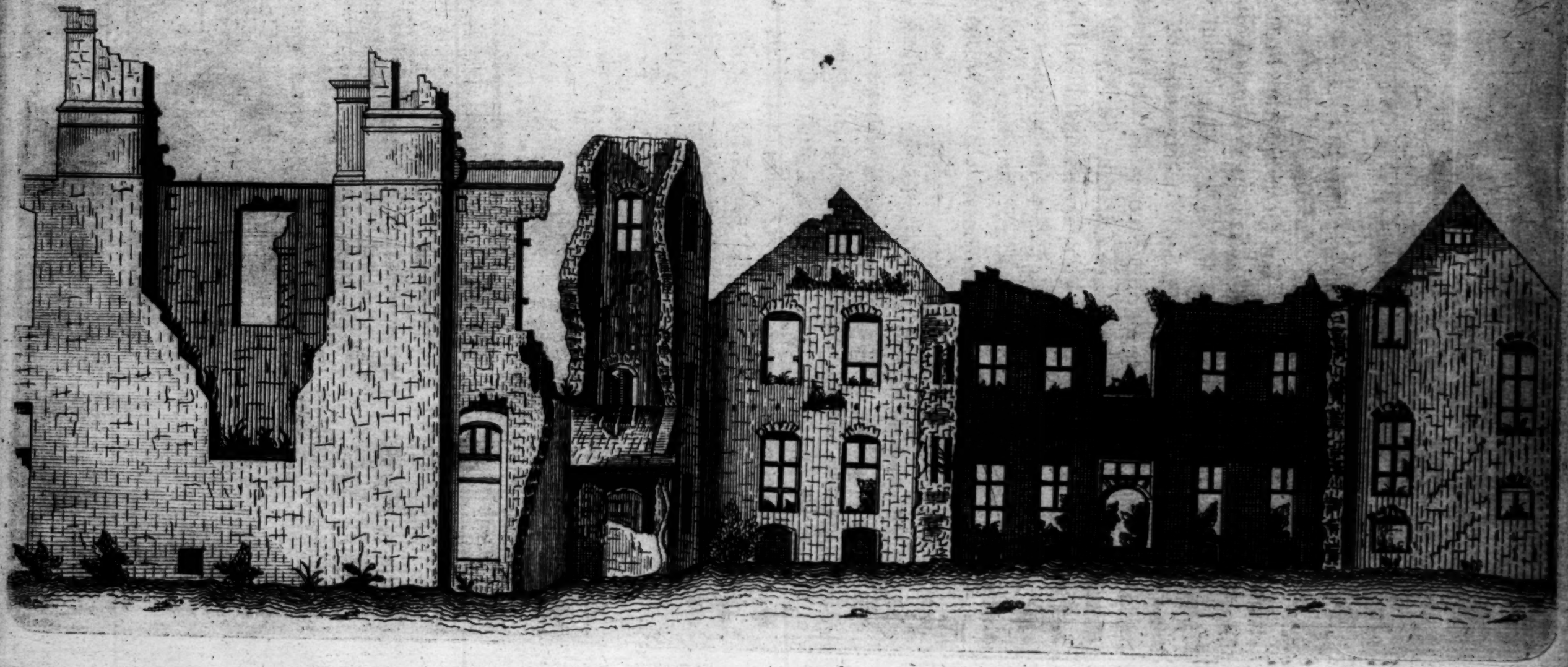
Agreeably with the note, page 65, I have endeavoured to give to the religious houſes, &c. in this ſection their proper names and ſituations. Mr. Speed, in his plan of Leiceſter, which is copied facing p. 22, the reader will perceive places this houſe in the ſituation of Grey Friars, and Grey Friars where this ſhould be. The plan of the town laid down to face the laſt ſection of this work, is taken partly from one laid down with much care, early in the preſent century, by Mr. Roberts, a good ſurveyor. In that, Grey Friars, conformably with hiſtory, is placed near St. Martin's church; and White

Friars

p208

Leicester Abbey.

1773.




G.R.
III.

Friars in now what is called Webb's Friars, which Speed calls Grey Friars. It is generally believed that there never was any White Friary in Leiceſter; for nothing has been handed down reſpecting it.

BLACK or AUGUSTINE FRIARS is that near or adjoining to old Bow Bridge, now ſtanding, and alſo againſt which Little Bow-Bridge butted. In confirmation of this, Leland ſays, "A little above the Weſt bridge the Soare caſtith oute an arme, and ſone after cummeth in again, and maketh one ſtreame of Sore. Withyn this iſle ſtandeth the Blake Freres very pleaſuantly; and hard by the Freres is alſo a bridge of ſtone over this firme of Sore (*a*)." He ſays further, "I ſaw in quire of the Blake Freres the tumbe of . . . . .; and a flat ſtone, with the name of Lady Iſabel, wife to Sir John Beauchamp, of Holt; and in the North iſle I ſaw the tumbe of another knight without ſcripture; and in the North croſs iſle a tumbe having the name of Roger Poynter of Leiceſter, armid . . . . ."

By other accounts it ſhould ſeem that *Auguſtine* and *Blake Friars* were not one and the ſame houſe (*b*). For Ralph Burrel, it is ſaid, was the laſt prior of the latter, and ſurrendered it the 10th of November, 30th of Henry VIII. and afterwards granted the houſe and ſite to the Marquis of Dorſet, and Thomas Duport, and the heirs of the Marquis. The former was ſurrendered to Richard Preſton 10th

(*a*) Mr. Carte ſays, "The Dominicans, alias Black Friars Preachers, were ſituate near the North gate, which, in the plan of Leiceſter, by Roberts, are called White Friars, and Gray, by Speed." He founds this opinion (for it is no more than an opinion) from its being called ſomewhere "St. Clement's, alias dict' le Blake Freares in le Aſhes," ſuppoſing "*in le Aſhes*" related to the many aſh-trees which grew in the precincts, and that it had the name of St. Clement's, becauſe this ground is ſituate in St. Clement's pariſh, now a part of All Saints pariſh. He ſays the Auguſtine or Black Friars were ſituate without the Weſt gate, between the two channels of the river. He properly conjectures that *Little Bow bridge*, which lately fell, was made uſe of only as a foot paſſage for the uſe only of the brethren of that houſe.

(*b*) 27 Hen. VII. by an act of common hall was granted to the prior of this houſe, cow paſture, in their grounds called the cowhey, for an annual rent of 20s. and on condition that he and houſe ſhould pray for them for ever. I have noticed ſomething ſimilar, page 87. Prior to theſe agreementt, in 1356, Henry duke of Lancaſter gave the houſe leave to fiſh in the river Soar three days in a week, provided they fiſhed by day, and with netts not too ſmall in the maſh.

November, 30 Henry VIII. Some ſuppoſe one thing, and ſome another; but Leland, the venerable traveller, who wrote from an actual viſit, in company, doubtleſs, with a good informant of the town or friary, we may depend upon. Thoſe who ſtart different opinions lived centuries after the deſtruction of the houſe, when not a veſtige of it was viſible excepting the traces of its foundation. Another, and a convincing proof is, that the inſulated piece of ground oppoſite the Bath gardens, called *Bruce's Friars*, is the proper ſite, becauſe within a few paces there remains, to this day, a well of pure ſpring water, called *St. Auſtin's Well*, which in my time was ſurrounded with a brick wall, a yard high, covered with ſtone.

The only thing now viſible, that may be ſaid to belong to the friary, is an old frame, on which hung the mendicant's bell, which projects from the houſe top of that dwelling, partly ſtanding on the Weſt bridge, and partly projecting over the river. Here two mendicants ſtood begging for the ſupport of their brethren.

GRAY FRIARS

Houſe was ſituate near St. Martin's Church, and was honoured with the tomb of one of the braveſt monarchs that ever fell in battle, Richard III. Leland's words are, "The Gray Freres of Leiceſter ſtode at the end of the hoſpital of Mr. Wigſton. Simon Montfort, as I lernid, was founder there, and there was byried King Richard III. and a knight caullid Mutton, ſumtyme mayre of Leyrceſter." It is imagined that the church is that mentioned in Charity's Rentale, as "Eccleſia Sanctæ Trinitatis," which is deſcribed to be in the pariſh of St. Martin.

Mr. Carte ſays, "The FRANCISCAN or GREY FRIARY, ſtood on the South ſide of St. Martin's church-yard, towards which there is a portal remaining; but the other building is quite demoliſhed, moſt of it now belongs to Mr. Noble, who has a very fine houſe

houſe within the precincts of it (*a*). He adds, that the part of the ſtone coffin of Richard, which remained in his day, at the White Horſe Inn, had appearances of the hollow fitted for retaining the head and ſhoulders (*b*).

William Giles was the laſt warden. He, with other brethren, ſurrendered it 10th November, 30 Henry VIII.

In 1402, the maſter of this houſe was convicted of high treaſon, and was hanged with a natural ſon of the famous Black Prince.

The grounds belonging to this Friary were ſpacious, and extended from the upper end of the Market-place to the Friar-lane meeting-houſe; much of which has been built on in my time. When the workmen were digging for the cellars, to the range of houſes which face St. Martin's church, they caſt up, I remember, many human bones; one ſkeleton lay entire: the Friary church probably ſtood there.

Hoſpital of St. Ursula.

Nobody knows much about it, although it is mentioned by Burton, and in the Monaſticon; valued by the former at 22l. per annum, and in the latter at 8l. Some think it was Wigſton's hoſpital they mean; it being dedicated to the Virgin Mary, St. Catherine, and St. Urſula.

St. Leonard's Hospital.

Was founded by William the Leper, ſon of Robert Blanchmains, earl of Leiceſter, and was ſituate, Mr. Carte imagines, near St. Leonard's church-yard (*c*). In the reign of Edward IV. William Lord

(*a*) This dwelling has been lately beautified, and two extenſive wings added to it, for the reſidence of Mr. Thomas Pares, whoſe property it now is. Perhaps there are few dwellings, within a large town, more defireable.

(*b*) When I was a boy, the end of it that then remained ſtood as a part of a heap of rubbiſh, in the inn-yard, of brick ends, ſtones, &c. and was in appearance like fig. 5, in the plate page 64.

(*c*) The maſter of the hoſpital paid 10s. a year to the abbey for a paſſage to the chapel, for celebrating divine ſervice, which was received in right of their church of St. Leonard. Therefore it certainly ſtood near it. The founder being a leper, it was built for the relief of thoſe afflicted with this diſorder.

Haſtings obtained the hoſpital of the king (*a*), who gave it to the Collegiate church in the Newark, for which, the religious of that church engaged to keep a ſpecial obit for him, on the 18th of February, 17 Edward IV (*b*).

Hoſpital of St. John the Evangelist,

By ſome called the Baptiſt; founder not known. It is mentioned ſo far back as 20 Edw. III. To this hoſpital belonged the chapel of *St. John* abovementioned. It is ſituate adjoining the town gaol; and, by Mr. Carte's account, was given by queen Elizabeth to the corporation. It was afterwards uſed as a wool-hall; but at the latter end of the reign of James I.; a benefaction of 17l. a year was raiſed by ſeveral liberal minded perſons of opulence, who placed in it ſix poor widows.

The needy of this hoſpital are placed in it now by the corporation; and towards their ſupport, ſeveral aldermen and others, at their deaths, have contributed largely. An annual ſermon alſo is preached for their benefit the Sunday after St. John's day, now at St. Martin's, formerly at All Saints. The preacher is appointed by the mayor, and receives a benefactio nof 20s. left by a perſon for that purpoſe. He reads a liſt of the benefactors names in the church, with their gifts; but I am apprehenſive that that cuſtom is of no ſervice to the poor. The corporation, by order of hall, are obliged to attend that day or are fined; an alderman, one ſhilling; a common-council man, ſixpence. This has been a ſtanding order ever ſince the year 1683 (*c*).

(*a*) Carte, from Dugdale. The chaplain of this hoſpital at Eaſter, 1439, admitting two ſervants of the maſter to the Euchariſt, was by the biſhop's commiſſary enjoined to do penance for it the next Sunday, at the proceſſion at St. Leonard's church.

(*b*) Carte—Gervas was maſter in 1235. In 20 Edward III. the maſter was laid at 16d. for the 30th part of a knight's fee in Hungarton; and at 16d. for the like quantity of land in Quene. borough, of the fee of Tutbury, in the aid granted to the king for making his eldeſt ſon a knight.

(*c*) In the hoſpital now are eight perſons, ſix of whom receive full pay, 2s. 6d. per week, the other 1s. 6d. each. Part of the building, which has but little the appearance of an hoſpital without, is now uſed as a town bridewell.

The

The following article I copied from the corporation records:

" This covent and agreement made and executed the xx day of Septembr̄, the xvii yere of the reigne of kyng Edward iiii. betwyx Robert Syleby, maſter of the hoſpitall of Seynt John Evangeliſte, and Seynt John Baptiſt, of Leyceſtyr, and the brethren of the ſame place of the oon partye, and Richard Wiggeſton, of Leyceſtyr, ſteward of the gylde of the ſame, ſeynt John of the other parte, witteneſſeth that the ſeid gylde, wt the good advyce of the ſeid mayſter and his ſucceſſours, ſhall ſyende, evermore, duryng the ſeid gyld, a good and an abele preeſt to ſay or ſynge maſſe in the gylde chappell of Seint John aforeſaid; and ii dayes in the weke in the chapell of ſeint John Bapt at the towneſhend of Leyceſtr, except, that the mayſter or his ſucceſſours at any tyme wylle ſay meſſe ther them ſelfs, and what tyme they ſay meſſe ther, or be forth of towne; that then the ſeyd gylde preeſt ſhall ſyng or ſay meſſe at the high alwter of the ſeid ſeint John, helpynge the ſeide mayſter and his ſucceſſours to ſyng and rede in the quere ther, evry holy day in the yere, doyne ſervice, praying eſpecially for the ſolles of Peers Teller, and his wyffe, and for the welfare, and the ſolles, of all the brethren and ſyſters of the ſaid gylde and houſe, and in general for all oder goode benefactours of the ſeaide houſe or gylde. And the ſeide mayſter and his ſucceſſours ſhall gyffe to the ſeide gylde preeſt mete and drink ſufficiently, or allȳd evwry yere for his borde xl. of lawfull mony. And the ſeid ſteward and his ſucceſſours to pay him the income of his ſalery as they can agree, and fynde him a chambur wtȳn the ſeid ſeynt John. And yff hit happen that the ſeid gylde preeſt fayell, and have not his borde, or xl. as he awght for to have at lawfull tymes, in default of the mayſter, or his ſucceſſours, that then be hit lawfull to the ſeide ſteward and his ſucceſſours for the tyme beying ſteward, to entre in to a place wt the appurtennces of ſeynt John aforeſaid, ſett wtōut Eſtgate of Leyceſter, betweene the meyde or road of the gylde of Corpus Xriſti, in Seint Martens church, of the Weſt ſyde, and Seynt Margrett lane, of the Eſte parte, now the tent of Thomas Davy, grocer, and ther to take a diſtreſſe for the ſaide xl. and hit to bere away as oft tyme as ther ys defaults of his borde or payment of the ſeide xl. yerely: yn wyttenes hereof, alſo, well the comon ſeale of the ſeide houſe, as the ſeale of

the

the ſeide ſteward, alternately to thes indentyres be put the day and yere above ſaid (*a*)."

Bent's Hospital

Is under the roof of St. John's juſt noticed. It was endowed in 1703, by a Mr. John Bent, alderman, who by will gave land at Enderby, to the yearly amount of 24l. The corporation are in truſt alſo for this hoſpital: it ſupports four widows.

In 1704 a common hall granted out of the town purſe ſix-pence per week for a perſon qualified as a nurſe or aſſiſtant. Bent's poor have the ground floor, and St. John's the upper.

Simond's Hospital, Countess' Hospital, and Spittle Houses,

Are places of inferior note. The firſt is ſituate in Blue-boar-lane; it contains ſix poor widows, their pay 15s. per quarter. The ſecond is ſituate near the abbey, and was founded by the counteſs of Devon, who lived there; but their pay and number have been uncertain: it ſhould be 30l. per annum. The houſes were down, or nearly ſo, ſeveral years, but they were rebuilt about eighteen years ſince. The third is in Belgrave gate, I believe, for ſix widows. Their pay 1s. 2d. per week.

Trinity Hospital

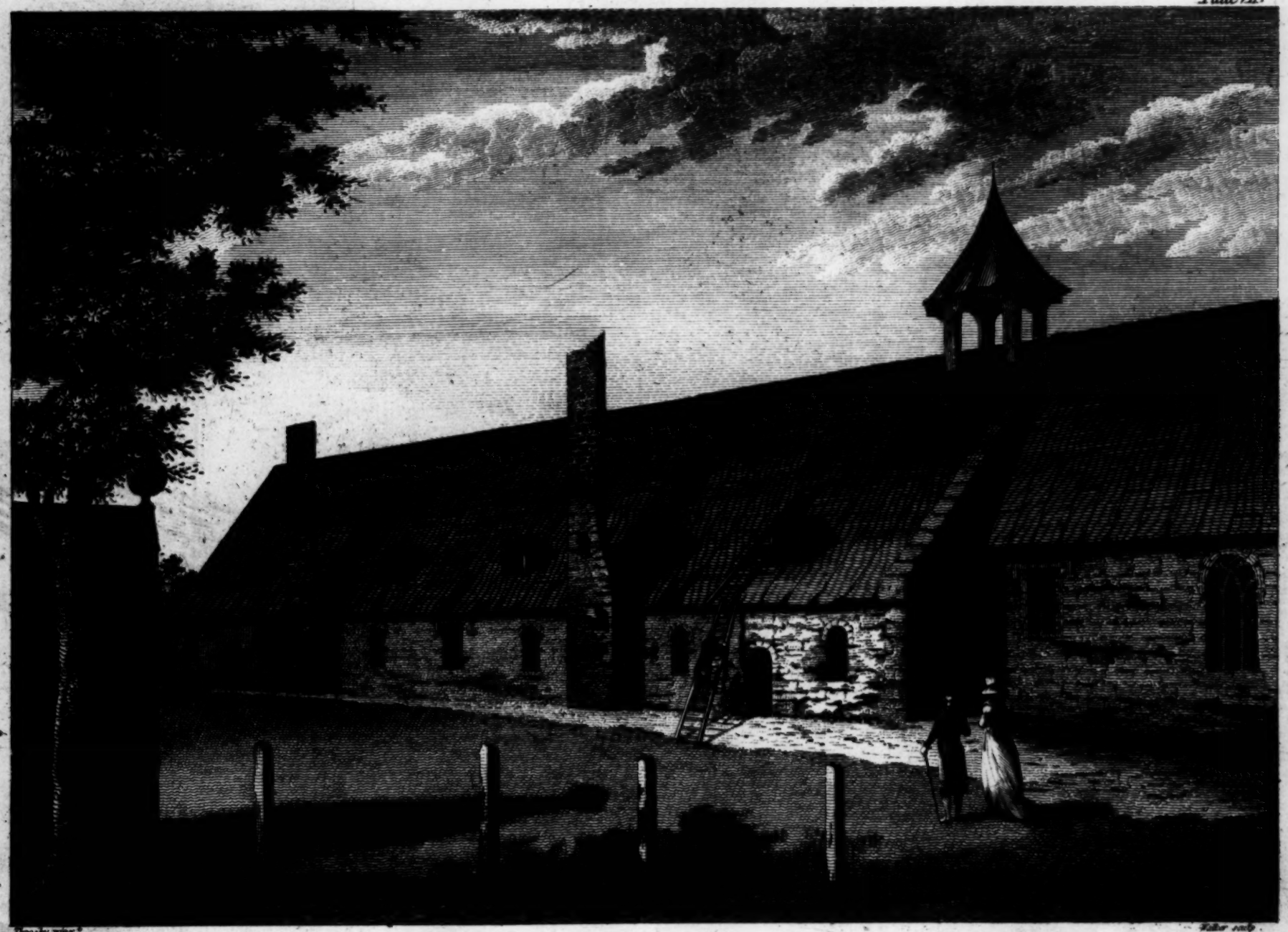
Was founded by "Henry duke of Lancaſter, who died in 1361, in

(*a*) In the corporation book, whence the above was taken, is recorded a gift from John Reynolde, the elder (who was four times mayor of Leiceſter, viz. in 1450, 1458, 1463, and 1477), who, it ſays, "for the goodly zele and effectual pleaſinge that he had unto the honourable and worſhipfull office of mairalte of the town of Leyceſter, hath granted unto the mairalte foreſaid, perpetually, a tenement in the High ſtrete of Leyceſter, by the High Croſſe." Further it ſays, "to hold the ſaid tenement, with purtunances to the marialtie of the towne of Leyceſter, perpet—." Probably a kind of manſion-houſe for the mayors in ſucceſſion.

which


G.R. III.

Plate VII.



Drawn by Prior.

Taller sculp.

TRINITY HOSPITAL.

Published by J. Throsby, Leicester Nov.ber 30th 1789, & Sold by W. Walker Rosemans St. London.

which he placed 100 poor and weak men, and ten able women, to aſſiſt the ſick and weak; and ſufficiently endowed the ſame (*a*)."

Knighton ſays, that upon the hoſpital were theſe words: "Henry Greſmund, Duke of Lancaſter, of this houſe was the founder." A ſtone now over the entrance into the hoſpital attempts to inform us when it was founded, viz, in 1331. It is very probable that the building was begun by the father, the earl of Lancaſter, and finiſhed by his ſon, the duke of Lancaſter. The king's patent was taken out for founding it in 1330, by Henry earl of Lancaſter, who conferred on it four carucates of land in Leiceſter, and the advowſon of the church of Irceſter, in the county of Northampton, which was dated at Woodſtock, April 2, 4 Edward III (*b*).

The antient pay from the king (as heir to the Lancaſter eſtates) to the hoſpital, as appears by old records (*c*), was 216l. 11s. 8d. a ſum heretofore allowed and paid by the college of the Newark before the diſſolution; to which was added, for a chaplain, repairs, and fuel, 13l.; in all, 299l. 11s. 8d. This ſum was continued till the grand rebellion.

The maſterſhip was given by queen Elizabeth to the earl of Huntingdon, and by him ſold to the corporation in 1609-10, in the mayoralty of Thomas Parker (*d*).

Having in my poſſeſſion ſeveral letters from the leading members of the corporation about the concerns of this royal hoſpital, and the purchaſing of the Graunge near, addreſſed to Sir William Heyrick,

(*a*) Knighton, who lived about this period. In an old liſt of mayors, it ſays, it was founded by Henry the firſt duke of Lancaſter, in 1337. Burton, from Leland, 5 Edward III. Carte ſays, "The hoſpital was founded in 1332, by Henry earl of Lancaſter, in honorem Dei et Beatæ Mariæ Virginis; but it is now ſtyled the hoſpital of the Holy Trinity in the Newark." Speed ſays it was founded by Henry, earl of Lancaſter, and Henry, duke of Lancaſter, his ſon, in the time of Edward II. for four chaplains, two clerks, fifty poor men, and five poor women.

(*b*) Carte. (*c*) Corporation Records.

(*d*) "Paid to the earl of Huntingdon 26l. 13s. 4d. which his lordſhip had paid before to Mr. Fowkes, upon the ſurrender of the patent of the old hoſpital; and alſo paid charges of ſuing out the ſame, in the name of the mayor, bailiffs, and burgeſſes, 37l. 14s." —*Corporation Records.*

knight, I have given copies of them below, nearly in the order of time they were ſent. They manifeſt a very high confidence in the integrity and intereſt of Sir William (*a*).

(*a*) After our hartieſt comendations: underſtanding by Mr. Wadland of your great paynes and care of us to Sir William Smythe, in the purchaſing of the Graunge for the wch wee and o^r^ wholl corporation acknowledge o^r^ ſelves much bound unto yow, and reſt your detter for your approved love towarde us: ſoe ſhall o^r^ ſucceedinge age have greate cavſe to acknowledge the ſame, althoughe the purchaſe bee verie deare, erneſtly intreatinge your advice and paynes once again, for the incorporatinge the hoſpitall, and for the followinge, which buſineſs wee have ſent up Mr. Wadlande, whoe will bee readie to attende yow therin; and by him have ſent unto Sir William Smithe, the firſte five hundrith marke, and ſecuritie for the reſt, and xıl. in gold for the lady Smithe; but in reſpect of o^r^ povertie at this tyme, yf you can content her with xl. wee ſhall tak it as a greate kindneſs, deſiring yor preſence when the money is to paſſe him. And thus beinge (as wee have allwayes beene) bound to trouble you, wee commend y^u^ to the protection of the Almightie, and allwayes reſt

Your aſſured lovinge friende,
THOMAS MAUBY, Maior.
ROBERT HEYRICKE."

" To Sir William Heyricke, Knight, in London.
Leiceſter, 23d Jan. 1613."

" Right worſhipful, &c.

After our hartie commendations, with thanks for yor love and great care of us; and our corporation underſtanding by yor let^re^ to your brother Mr. Robert Heyricke, that one Tibb, an almſman, in o^r^ hoſpitall, in the Newarke of Leiceſter, hath exhibited a petition to the kinge's ma^tie^, and of his highneſs reference thereof to oure honourable good friende Mr. Chancellour of the Duchie, and of his good likeing thereof, for the incorporatinge of the ſayde hoſpitall. We have therefore thought fitt to ſend upp this bearer, oure lovinge friende, Thomas Nurſe, to repaire to the ſayde Tibb, and to know of him how farr he hath proceeded therein, and fully to acquaint you therewith; that as his proceedinge therein hitherto may be yor likinge, and likewiſe to be brought to paſſe: wee are therefore the boulder to intreate y^r^ worſhipp's good direction, and to advice with o^r^ recorder howe to incorporate the ſayde hoſpitall; and that the maior of our ſayde borough, for the tyme beinge, and certen of his bretheren, in the name of o^r^ corporation, maie forever be maiſters thereof yf ſo be obtayned. Thus farr preuming of y^r^ worſhipp^s^ fav^r^ and paynes in this ſuite, wee commende you to the affection of the Allmightie, and allwaies reſt

Your verie loving friends,
THOMAS MAUBIE, Maior.
ROBERT HEYRICKE.
W. MORTON.
JAMES ELLYCE.
JAMES ANDREWE.
THOMAS PARKER.
JOHN FREAKE."

" To the Right Worſhipful Sir William Heyricke, knight, at London, bee theſe.
dated
Leiceſter, xvij daie of November, 1613."

" Right

I will here give a ſtatement of the income and expenditure of the hoſpital, chiefly abridged from the accounts of the corporation. It will ſhew that there is but little reaſon to attribute the diminution of the

" Right Worſhipfull,

After our greate thanks for your greate paine, and all your kindneſs, theſe are to teſtifie yo^{u} that wee have intreated this bearer, Mr. Sacheveril, to come up in our behalfe, about our ſuite concerninge the Olde Hoſpitall, to doe what he can therein for a while, untill Mr. Woodland ſhall come up. We weare the more importunate with him to undertake this journey, for that (for his knowledge of the wholl buſineſs, and his experience in hoſpitall matters) wee thought him as likelie at this tyme to doe good therein, as any other that wee could have gotten. And therefore wee pray that you will take the paines to goe wth him to Mr. Moſely, ſo ſoone as you maie, and to make him knowne unto him to be the man whom wee have deſired to repayre unto his worſhip about our ſuite; and (as touching the meſſage which he ſent to us by our Town-clarke) that Mr. James Andrew is the man whom wee deſire and thinke the fitteſt to be named in the booke for the firſt man, if one particular perſon muſt be named therein. And if the generall name of the Mayor and aldermen of the borough of Leiceſter for the tyme beinge maie not ſerve in this caſe. And ſo intreating erneſtly the contynuence of y^{r} love (notwithſtanding the tedioufneſs of the ſuite), wee commend you, by our prayers, unto the rich rewarding of him that pitied Ninivi.

Yo^{r} Wor^{p}
Much bounden to be commanded,'

" Leiceſter,
the 23d of June 1614."

THOMAS MAUBIE, Mair
W. MORTON.
JAMES ANDREWE.
THOMAS PARKER."

" Right Worſhipfull,

Underſtanding by our good friende Mr. Sacheurall and Mr. Wadland of your greate paynes, travel, and good endevours to many perſons, and . . . . . in his behalf to our poor towne concerninge our hoſpitall, for the which wee acknowledge ourſelves much beeholdinge unto you, not onlie in this but for dyvers other your lovinge favours done unto us and our wholl corporation, partilye deſiringe the contynuance of your kinde favour towarde us, and our poore towne; for upon your ſelfe, wee and our wholl corporation are boulde whollie to relie, without which we know not what might befal us. Wee have ſent by this bearer Mr. Chamberlin Heyricke, to pai unto Sr Wm Smythe the five hundred marks due upon Saturdaie nexte, beinge the ſeconde paiment for our Grange, which wee purchaſed by your good meanes of

the income to the corporation, who, in my opinion have, with much rectitude, diſcharged their duty, ſince they have been entruſted with the maſterſhip of the houſe. As to the mode of renewing leaſes, which ſo ſhamefully keeps back the pay of the poor from increaſing, depends chiefly upon themſelves. To the honour of ſeveral leading aldermen, in ſucceſſion, be it ſpoken, that they have invariably refuſed accept-

Hind. Thus being, as wee have allwaies been, troubleſome, wee commende you to the protection of the Almightie, and ever reſt

Yonr worſhipp' aſſured friends,

THOMAS MAUBIE, Maior.
ROBERT HEYRICKE,
WILLIAM MORTON.
JOHN FREAKE."

"Leiceſter, the 2d Aug. 1614.
To the right Worſhipfull our ſpecial good friende Sr Wm Heyricke, knight, London, theſe."

"Right Worſhippful,

The greate love we have ſo often found in you heretofore towards our Towne doathe makes us the more bould to requeſt your helpe now againe allſoe at this tyme. And it is onlie that you would be pleaſed to goe with Mr. Wadlande to Mr. Attorney of the Duchie, for the deliveringe of this letter of ours unto him, and to intreate his lawfull favour towards us in the matters conteyned in the letter. The particulars whereof we leave unto Mr. Wadland's relation; and for all kindneſſes, wee doe moſt heartilie commend yourſelf and all your' into the Almighties gracious protection, reſtinge both now and ever."

Leiceſter, the eleauenth of June, 1616.

"To the Worſhipfull Sr William Heyricke, Knight, bee theſe."

"Right Worſhipfull,

After our harteſt comendacons, with thanks for yor kinde remembrance unto us in yor letter conſernynge Mr. Darkham, the new Chancellor of the Duchie, ſince whych tyme we have not bene unmindful; and nowe have ſent upp this bearer, Roger Cotes, one of or Chamberlynes, unto yo, that by yr worſhipp's direction he may provide a ſilver cupp with a cover as to yr direction ſhall bee thought fitt. Deſiring yo to comende the ſayde cuppe to Mr. Chancellor, as a ſmall taſte of our faithful love and true affection towards him, with much deſire of

accepting either the leaſes of the land or the tenements as they have expired belonging to the hoſpital, although often exceedingly profitable to the holders. Others have thirſted after them, and profited much at the expence of the poor.

In 1647, the reigning power, the parliament, ſeized all the revenues of the crown, ſparing not even that pious property, in many inſtances, which had been given to ſupport the aged and the infirm. Notwithſtanding the attachment of the inhabitants of this place to the cauſe of rebellion, the eſtates of the poor of the hoſpital were ſeized, which made them the moſt pitiable objects of compaſſion. However, the corporation, greatly to their honour, conſidering themſelves the guardians of theſe poor people, laudably appropriated a portion of their own inheritance towards their maintenance, till 1650, or 1651, when the parliament veſted in truſtees, for the ſupport, of this hoſpital, and that of the uſher of the Free ſchool, and the vicar of St. Mary, ſeveral fee-farm rents at Shilton, Tooley Park, Foxton, Stapleford, Rothley, Gaddeſby, the horſe-mill and two tenements in the Swine-market, the rent of St. John's, St. Leonard's, and St. Margaret's guild, amounting together to 271l. 19s. 6d. ¼. Soon after the Reſtoration, the old payments of the hoſpital nearly returned back through their former channel, and from its own poſſeſſions. The income was about this time 229l. 1s. 8d. which was paid till 1683; when the receipts were only 205l. 13s. 11d. ¼. thus:

of contynuance of his hon^ble love and favour towards our poore towne, beinge one of the moſt ancient towne in all the wholl Duchie. Thus beinge (as wee have allwaies bene) boulde to trouble you, wee comend you to the proteƈtion of the Allmightie, and allwaies reſt

Your Wo^pp verie lovinge friends

WILL. IVES, Maior.
ROBERT HEYRICKE.
W. MORTON.
JAMES ELLICE.
JAMES ANDREWE.
THOMAS PARKER.
THOMAS MAUBIE."

"Leiceſter, this laſt of June, 1616."

Paid

Paid by Mr. Dyſon, - -	113	13	11 ¼
Other rents paid by ditto -	25	6	8
From the honour of Tutbury,	66	13	4
	205	13	11 ¼

In conſequence of this diminution of their annual income, the body corporate petitioned Charles II. and James II. reſpectively, for the full and former pay; but the Chancellor of the Dutchy prevailed in his application to the ruling powers, to have the number of the poor reduced inſtead of furthering the good intentions of that body. Ten dwellings were in conſequence left without inhabitants (*a*).

Sir Nathan Wright, recorder, in the year 1695, drew out an account of the income of the hoſpital, in which it appeared that there was received from the king, before the diſſolution, 216l. 11s. 8d.; ſince for a chaplain, 5l.; for repairs, 4l.; and for fuel, by gift, 4l. in all, 229l. 11s. 8d. Expended thus:

	£.	s.	d.
To 100 poor men and women, to each 7d. weekly	2	18	4
Ten keepers, each 10d - - -	0	8	9
	3	7	1
For the year - - - -	174	8	4
Wood money - - - -	10	0	0
Halfpenny money, the gift of Simpkin Simpſon	11	16	8
Fivepenny money, the gift of Lady Harvey -	2	1	8
Sixpenny money, the founder's gift - -	2	10	0
Lamp-money - - - - -	1	0	0
Livery-money - - -	12	0	0
To ſix widows of St. John's - - - -	2	15	0
	216	11	8

(*a*) About the year 1678, a fee farm rent of 24l. iſſuing from the rectory of Duffield, in Derbyſhire, which before went towards the maintenance of the hoſpital, was alieneated.

Chaplain, repairs, and fuel money, ſtated above	13	0	0
In all	229	11	8

There was a grant from Charles I. to the maſter of the hoſpital, as a fee, 13l. 6s. 8d, which ſalary was paid till 1684. This ſum, I believe, is ſtill charged to the debt due from the hoſpital to the corporation, paid to each reſpective mayor from the corporation eſtates. Money advanced for the poor during Cromwell's uſurpation, and expences in petitions, &c. afterwards, left the hoſpital indebted to the corporation in 1684, 546l. 11s. 8d.

To this houſe the aldermen of Leiceſter have been conſiderable benefactors from their private fortunes, ſince they have held the maſterſhip. The ſum of 1125l. was given a few years back by a Mr. Holmes, an inhabitant of Leiceſter, on condition that the corporation ſhould pay him intereſt for life.

The view of the old building, facing page 294, I drew at the time the workmen began to take it down, before it was rebuilt. That view which faces the article *Leiceſter Infirmary*, in the laſt ſection, is a view of the preſent building, done at the expence of his preſent majeſty, George III. It ſays over the door, *rebuilt by him*: it diſgraces royalty. It ſhould ſay mutilated, patched, and cobbled up, by and for the profit of . . . . . , architect (*a*).

(*a*) The king being informed that the building was much out of repair, and having in his poſſeſſion ſome lapſe eſtates, ordered an eſtimate of the expence of rebuilding it in a manner worthy the illuſtrious and noble founders, which eſtimate his majeſty agreed to pay, and added 40l. per annum to its income. About this time an election, replete with miſchief, had ſo deranged the minds of men, as is too common on ſuch occaſions, that each party endeavoured to thwart the deſigns of the other. In this ſtruggle, thoſe in the oppoſite intereſt to the corporation ſecured the favour of recommending objects to this hoſpital on every vacancy, which heretofore had been given by the Chancellor to the corporation. The builder, during the conteſt for power, patched up the building in a way moſt conducive to his own intereſt; ſold much timber, and the lead eſtimated at 1200l. and covered the part he left ſtanding (for he reduced the width nearly one third) with ſlates. He made up the now front wall, which before was a range of fine arched pillars on the ſide of a ſpacious aile in the center of the building, with dirt, mortar, and ſtone rubbiſh. However paradoxical it may appear, it is now generally believed that the builder cleared upwards of 1000l. by the job; the eſtimate was only about 400l.

This

This hoſpital ſtands in the Newark, Leiceſter, in a ſituation retired and agreeable to old age. The preſent building was finiſhed in 1777. Over the door it is inſcribed,

"Founded
By Henry Earl of Lancaſter, 1331;
Rebuilt
By George III. 1776."

The king, as heir to the Lancaſter eſtates, has the ſole diſpoſal of the places when vacant; and his deputy is the Chancellor of the Dutchy of Lancaſter. The poor now are chiefly recommended by the corporation, and, in general, thoſe whom they petition for are appointed.

The following orders, exemplified under the ſeal of the Dutchy of Lancaſter in February 1780, are in the cheſt of writings belonging to this hoſpital:

"An augmentation of 40l. a year being ordered by the king's moſt excellent Majeſty, to the uſe of this hoſpital: and the Dutchy Court having directed, that, after Lady-day, 1780, the regulations herein after mentioned ſhall take place, this paper is printed for the information of the foremen, keepers, and poor of this hoſpital.

It is ordered that the ſeveral annual ſums following (inſtead of being divided and paid as heretofore) ſhall, after Lady-day, 1780, be made one common fund, for the purpoſes herein after mentioned.

	l.	s.	d.
The Michaelmas rents and gifts	116	18	4
The Lady-day rents and gifts	79	15	4
Lady Moyer's donation	20	0	0
Mr. Holmes's donation	45	0	0
	261	13	8

The

Carried up	261	13	8
The drover's money, livery money, lamp money, half-penny money, and ſixpenny money	23	6	6
The old pay of 8d. a week to the eight keepers	13	17	4
The old pay of 7d. a week to eighty poor	121	6	8
The old allowance for repairs	4	0	0
The like for fuel	9	11	1
	433	15	3

To the above muſt be added a ſaving made to the poor in 1776, by the voluntary bounty of the Dutchy Officers, in giving up all their fees and poundage, which till then had been paid to them out of the Dutchy allowance ever ſince the reign of Edward the VIth, amounting to the annual ſum of — 14 15 9

And his Majeſty's additional grant per annum is 40 0 0

Making in the whole 488 11 0

By the new orders, this ſum of 488l. 11s. is directed, after Lady-day 1780, to be paid and applied as follows, viz.

	Weekly allowance.			*Annual amount.*		
To the eight keepers, for ſoap and waſhing	0	1	8	4	6	8
To the eight keepers 2s. 4d. each, in lieu of all other allowances and perquiſites	0	18	8	48	10	8
To the two women entitled to Mr. Biller's donation, and excluſively thereof, 10d. each	0	1	8	4	6	8
To the remaining eighty poor, 1s. 10d. each — —	7	6	8	381	6	8
	8	8	8	438	10	8

So that the ſum to be divided on Friday morning in every week is 8l. 8s. 8d. which amounts to 438l. 10s. 8d. a year.

Brought over	438	10	8
To an apothecary, to be appointed by the maſter, annually to viſit the poor in ſickneſs, and for medicines, not to exceed	10	0	0
For fuel	11	0	0
For lamps and candles, not to exceed	5	0	0
To the foremen, for collecting the rents 7s. 6d. at Lady-day, and 7s. 6d. at Michaelmas	0	15	0
And the remaining ſum of 23l. 5s. 4d. together with all ſaving of pay for vacant houſes three months after every vacancy, are to be kept as a fund by the maſter and aſſiſtants for the future repairs of the hoſpital	23	5	4
Total as above	488	11	0

N. B. All the reſt of the poor's money is to be divided as before accuſtomed.

It is alſo ordered, that all the rents and gifts ſhall be continued to be received by the foremen in the uſual manner; but they are to pay the ſame over to the chamberlains of Leiceſter for the time being, to be carried to the account of the above fund.

Item, the chamberlains are out of the ſaid fund to iſſue and pay the foremen the above ſum of 8l. 8s. 8d. every Friday morning weekly, to be by them immediately diſtributed amongſt the keepers and the poor in manner abovementioned.

Item, after every vacancy, the weekly pay for the vacant houſes to be ſtopped for three calendar months, and applied towards the expence of keeping the hoſpital in good repair.

And laſtly, all the keepers and poor are, at their own expence, to keep in good repair the windows, bedſteads, floors, ſhutters, partitions, doors, hinges, locks, and faſtenings, of their reſpective rooms or houſes (every one his or her own); and, in default thereof, the foremen are to repair the ſame, and ſtop the expences out of the pay of the defaulters, to the intent the revenue of the hoſpital may not be charged

charged with the repairs of the rooms, nor any one perſon contribute to the expences of the repairs of the houſe of another perſon, but that every one of the keepers and poor may keep his or her room in the aforeſaid particulars in fit and decent repair."

In the chapel of this houſe remains an old tomb, or monument, without an inſcription, repreſented in the plate facing page 275, probably brought from the collegiate church, which ſtood oppoſite to the hoſpital. In the common kitchen is a large bell-metal pot, called *the Duke of Lancaſter's porridge-pot.* It holds ſixty-one gallons, and was formerly uſed to make furmity in, on Aſh-Wedneſday, to ſell to the people of the town. In another room you are ſhewn a large old nutmeg-grater, called *Queen Elizabeth's Pocket-piece.* It is ornamented with a variety of devices, and on it is engraved "ANN REGNI REGINA ELIZABETH ANGLIÆ, &c. On one ſide, "THINKE WEL, AND SAY WEL, BUT RATHER DO WEL;" on the other ſide, "FLEE IDLENESS, AND BE WELL OCCUPIED, 1579." On the bottom, "THIS BELONGITH TO THE OLD OSPITAL IN LEICESTER."

WIGSTON'S HOSPITAL

Is ſituate at the Weſt end of St. Martin's church-yard, and was founded by William Wigſton, jun. in the reign of Henry VI. or VII. (*a*). It was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, St. Catharine, and St. Urſula. It is a regular building, with ſeparate apartments for the members of the hoſpital; at one end is a neat chapel, and at the other the maſter's houſe. It conſiſts of a maſter, confrater, twelve men, and twelve women; by the rules of the houſe all ſingle. The ſtatutes, which were long, were confirmed by John, biſhop of Lincoln, in the year 1522; ſince altered by Henry, earl of Huntingdon, in the

(*a*) Mr. Carte ſays, a licence was obtained for the founding the hoſpital the 4th Henry VIII. and a confirmation the 6th. Speed ſays it was founded in the reign of Henry VII. and Burton fixes it towards the latter end of the reign of Henry VI.

reign of Elizabeth. Their pay about 3s. a week for the men, and 2s. 6d. for the women. The maſter's place is become a valuable ſinecure ſince the death of Mr. Jackſon, who reſided, as the founder intended he ſhould do. He has the renewing of all leaſes. The value of the maſter's place cannot eaſily be aſcertained. The confrater has a houſe alſo to live in: his place is eſtimated at 60 or 70l. per annum.

"William Wigſton, the founder, was merchant of the ſtaple of Calais, and was choſen mayor of Leiceſter in 1498, and re-choſen the year following. When he had built it, he endowed it amply with divers manors and other lands, March 1, 1519. He had, before this, ſettled a maintenance for a chantry-prieſt in St. Martin's church for a certain term of years; which when expired, he deſigned that the hoſpital ſhould be (if the revenue would thereunto extend) a maſter and three confraters; but there was at firſt a maſter and one confrater only, and ſo continues.

By the ſtatutes which he gave them, he ordered that after the deceaſe of himſelf and his two brothers Thomas and Roger, upon any vacancy of the maſter or confraterſhip, the dean and chapter of the collegiate church of the Newark ſhould have power to chooſe and put into the vacant place a fit perſon, for one fortnight; which if they neglected to do in that ſpace, then the mayor of Leiceſter for the time being, with the four juſtices of the peace of the ſaid town, or at leaſt with the two ſenior juſtices, ſhould have the power for the next following fortnight to name, entruſt, and put a fit perſon into the place vacant; and in caſe of their neglect, then the like power was granted to the abbot for the next fortnight; and, in caſe of his neglect, it reverted to the dean and chapter of Newark again for another fortnight, and then to the mayor and juſtices, and to the abbot, ſucceſſively, till the place was filled. He alſo ordered that the maſter and confrater ſhould conſtantly reſide within the precincts of the hoſpital, and not be abſent above forty days in a year, unleſs upon

the affairs of the hoſpital, without leave of one of the canons of the Newark; with this proviſo, that the maſter and confrater ſhould never both be abſent at the ſame time one whole day and night. He allowed the maſter to have one benefice out of the town of Leiceſter, provided that he conſtantly reſided within the hoſpital; but confined the confrater to his preferment in the hoſpital, ſo that if he had any other benefice with cure or without cure, or any farm or promotion whatſoever, he ſhould be deprived and expelled immediately. He alſo ordained that all fines and profits ariſing from the ſetting the lands and tenements ſhould be applied to the uſe of the hoſpital; and that if either the maſter or confrater ſhould retain any of the ſaid profits to his own uſe, he ſhould be expelled. Theſe, with other ſtatutes relating to the maſter, confrater, twelve men, and twelve women, were confirmed by John biſhop of Lincoln, Sept. 30, 1522, and by Richard Mawdely, S. T. B. archdeacon of Leiceſter, April 13, 1525.

The hoſpital beingerected in the pariſh of St. Martin, on the Weſt ſide of the church-yard, there was an indenture made between Richard Pekeſall, abbot, with his convent, and Sir Nicholas Wagſtaffe, vicar of St. Martin's, and Sir William Fyſher, maſter, and Sir John Thorpe, confrater of the hoſpital, and the twenty-four poor people, whereby it was agreed that the vicar ſhall adminiſter the Sacrament to the ſaid poor, and viſit them as they do their other pariſhioners when there is need, and bury their bodies in the church-yard when dead; that the ſaid poor ſhould be exempted from paying tithes, either predial or perſonal; that the abbot and vicar ſhall permit the maſter and confrater to celebrate divine ſervice in the chapel, and not compel them to be preſent at divine ſervice at St. Martin's church or church-yard, or to adminiſter the Sacrament to the pariſhioners, or to ſwear obedience to them; that, at the death of any of the poor, no mortuary ſhould be demanded, but the maſter and confrater ſhould pay mortuaries. It was alſo agreed, that, inſtead of tithes, oblations, and other parochial rights, due from the ſaid poor, the maſter ſhall every Eaſter eve,

eve, before noon, pay 6s. 8d. on the high altar of St. Martin's church, to be divided between the abbot and the vicar, and in caſe of failure or neglect ſhall forfeit 13s. 4d. to be divided between the abbot and vicar. And the parties above-named conſented that they ſhould be compelled to the obſervation of the premiſes by the biſhop of Lincoln, or his commiſſary, dated July 10, 1520; which compoſition was ratified by William biſhop of Lincoln, July 12, 1520, who, June 1, 1520, granted licence to have and adminiſter the Euchariſt in the chapel of the hoſpital, provided it was done without damage to the pariſh church (*a*)."

On a tablet in front of the maſter's houſe.

" Hoc ædificium, a Gulielmo Wigſton conditum, extructum erat ad A. D. 1515; refectum & adauctum A. D. 1730, Joh. Jackſon magiſtro."

" John Herault, of St. Saviour, who was maſter of this hoſpital in 1612, in a letter which Mr. Carte ſaw, ſays that both King Edward VI. and Quen Mary granted letters of confirmation of the founder's gift; and Elizabeth, by letters patent, May 17, a. r. 14, granted liberty to any perſon to give lands, &c. to this hoſpital, and to declare the uſes for which he gave them, which the chaplains and poor were bound to obſerve ſo long as they enjoyed them; whereupon Henry earl of Huntingdon, minding not only the bettering the eſtate of the poor, but alſo the good information of the inhabitants of the town and ſhire of Leiceſter in the true knowledge of the Chriſtian religion, by his deed Oct. 11, 18 Eliz. gave to the chaplains and poor ſeveral rent charges iſſuing out of the lands of the diſſolved abbey, amounting to 66l. 1s. 4d.; and Oct. 11. 18 Eliz. by another deed, declared that his purpoſe was, that the maſter of the hoſpital ſhould yearly receive the ſaid rents, and pay to the maſter of the free-ſchool 10l. and to the confrater of the hoſpital 30l. on condition that the confrater be a continual reſident preacher in the town of Leiceſter, and that he preach in the church of St. Martin's every Sunday afternoon in the year, except he be ſick, or that the church be occupied by any other preacher, &c.; alſo that the maſter of the hoſpital ſhould pay 10l. towards finding of certain ſcholars, which ſet their minds to become preachers in the church of England, viz. to two ſcholars, the one of Cambridge, and the other of Oxford, to each

(*a*) Leiceſterſhire Collections.

3l.

3l. who are to enjoy the ſame five years and no longer; and to two other ſcholars born in Leiceſter town or ſhire of poor parents, thought meet to become preachers, and able to be taught in ſome of the forms of the ſchoolmaſter, and whoſe parents ſhall promiſe that by their good-will they ſhall ſtudy to be preachers, to each of them 40s. for five years only, and then one of them to go to Cambridge, and the other to Oxford, and there to have the exhibition of 3l. a year in manner aforeſaid. The maſter and confrater upon any vacancy to chooſe; or, if they diſagree, the mayor of Leiceſter, with one of them, to chooſe within one month; or if they do not, then the earl's heirs to appoint one within a month after their default. He ordains alſo, that the maſter of the hoſpital pay 6l. 13s. 4d. to the twenty-four poor, to be divided among them; or elſe to buy twelve gowns of frieze yearly, for ſuch of the poor as have not liveries that year, by order of the founder; and the maſter for his care to take to himſelf the reſidue of the rents, being 10l. a year (*a*)."

In the 14th Eliz. the queen gave authority to the chancellor of the Duchy, and the Attorney-General, to make ſtatutes for the government of the houſe, which are many and wholeſome; tending to good order, and cleanlineſs in particular.

In 1656, John Whatton, Eſq. who has a monument to his memory in St. Martin's chancel, gave ſeven pounds per annum, payable out of the Shire-hall cloſe, for the maintenance of an additional poor widow. Her pay is 2s. 6d. per week.

" The allowance to the poor, beſides wood, coal, ſalt, oatmeal, gowns, &c. was at the foundation 8d. a week to the men, and 7d. to nine of the women, and to three women, who were nurſes, 8d.; and it continued the ſame at the making the ſecond ſtatutes, 14 Eliz. But ſince then, as the rents increaſed, it has from time to time been augmented.

" In 1656, one of the poor women, who had been twenty-four years in the houſe, depoſed that when ſhe came firſt the women had 11d. a week, and that Dr. Clarke added 3d. a week to each of them.

" In 1661, the weekly payment was 1l. 14s. 8d.; in 1662, it was 2l. 6s.; in 1668, 2l. 10s.; in 1674, 2l. 14s.; in 1677, 2l. 18s.; in 1681, 3l.; and ſo continued.

" In

(*a*) Mr. Carte, in Leiceſterſhire Collections.

" In 1721, it was 3l. 8s. or 2s. 10d. a week to each of the poor.

" In this chapel are many fragments of painted glaſs.

" In the North and South windows, the twelve Apoſtles, and St. Peter with the cock very diſtinguiſhable.

" In the Eaſt window is the rebus of *Wigſton*; and on five ſeparate lights the following remains of an inſcription:

ſua mera charitate.
Fundatoris et . . . . ra . . . . . .
Stapule . . . . . .
Caleſie majorem . . . . .
opus . . . . . .

" On a ſmall glaſs circle, over an eagle with expanded wings, *Sit laus Deo* (*a*).

" On the braſs ſelvage of a grave-ſtone on the floor in the chapel of the hoſpital, with a very neat effigies on braſs in the midſt:

" Hic requielcit corpus Domini Will'mi Fyſsher, primi magiſtri hujus hoſpitalis, quod ereſtu' fuit per licenciam regiam, et anno gracie 1473, per virum celeberimu' mercatorem d'n'm Will' Wigſton, fautorem ſacerdotum et pauperum benefactorem, et quater Stapule Caliſie majorem; et p'pter e'us meritum preſtet ſibi Deus eternum premium. Amen."

Under his figure in braſs, " Hoc ſolum nudu' ſupeſt' ſepulchru'."

On each ſide of his head, " Reſp' finem."

" On a narrow white marble on the floor,

" Hic jacet Cicilia, ... armigeri, quæ obiit anno Domini 1478. Cujus animæ miſereatur Deus, Amen. Reſpice finem."

" On a monument on the South-weſt wall, behind the pulpit-door:

" Præco & confrater poſt annos ſexque decemque
Galfridus Jhonſon religione pius.
Prole quater geminâ poſt fata ſuperſtite, fatis
Succubit ſtrati terra ſit iſta loco.
Anno 1585. Sumptibus Brigittæ uxoris, & Roberti fratris ejus."

" On

(*a*) Some of theſe, and other fragments of painted glaſs in this chapel, are delineated in the plate facing this page.

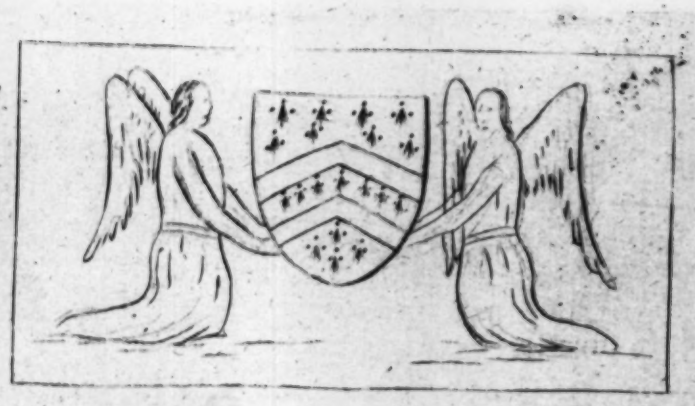
p. 310.


1


2


3


4


8


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6

figs.

2.3.4.5 painted glass. 6. brass fig: 1. the Arms over the entrance into the Hospital.


G.R
III.

On the South-eaſt wall this inſcription :

" P. M. S.
Parum tacende, nec premende pulveris
Cæco cubili ; gratiâ (Clarki) tuâ
Vocalis, ecce ! paries fio, geſtiens
Pium tibi nomen eloqui perenniùs.
In te uno deſideratiſſima quæque amiſimus,
Theologum quam ſcientiſſimum,
Nec loquentem tamen ſed viventem magna ;
Civem, vicinum, amicum, ope, conſilio, fide,
Nemini non utilem.
Porro, quodcunque tibi contigit lateritium,
Cum Cæſare marmoreum reliquiſti.
Hoc ſenſit Hertingfordburienſis pagus ;
Hoc Templum ibidem, hoc ædes rectoriæ,
Hoc & homines ſenſêre ;
Nec ſenſit minus hoc ipſum Ptochotrophium :
Cui ornando, augendo in omnibus
Benefaciendo, operam impendiſti maximam.
Cum te omnes plorent, tum omnium maxime
Chariſſima conjux Anna, ex inclytâ Harriſonorum,
de Balls apud Hertfordienſes familiâ oriunda :
Quæ, memoriæ ergo, quam colit ſanctiſſimè
E marmore me indicem fecit.
Obiit 19 Octob. ann. Sal. rep. 1684,
Ætat. 52."

The NAMES of the MASTERS in Succeſſion.

William Fyſher the firſt maſter, 1514, died about 1539.—Walter Brown died in 1560.—Nicholas Harwar in 1567.—Thomas Sampſon

in 1589.—Nathaniel Sampſon in 1611.—John Herault.—Samuel Clarke, D. D.—William Chillingworth, M. A. ſucceeded in the 16th of Charles the Firſt.—John Meredith, D. D. by patent from the king, 19 Charles I, whoſe place was ſupplied by Job Grey, nominated by the parliament in 1646.—Richard Lee was in poſſeſſion in 1650 and 1651; and Dr. Meredith reſtored in 1660.—Richard Clarke, M. A. died in the office, in 1684.—John Pyke obtained the patent in November 1684.—Hardwick died maſter in 1717-18.—Samuel Clarke, D. D. ſucceeded, and died in 1729.—John Jackſon, from the confraterſhip, ſucceeded; and died in 1763.—William Rawſtorne, M. A. in 1763;—and the preſent maſter, the Rev. F. H. W. Cornewall, canon of Windſor, in 1788.

Mr. Thomas Ludlam is the preſent Confrater.

Leicester Infirmary

Stands at the extremity of the Southern part of Leiceſter, and is repreſented facing this page in two points of view. It was built in 1771, by voluntary ſubſcription, and opened the ſame year for the reception of patients, ſick and lame, from any country. It was powerfully recommended to the conſideration of the opulent, as I have obſerved in page 196, by the late Dr. Watts, and its wholeſome laws digeſted by Dr. Vaughan; who received the thanks of the firſt general meeting of the ſubſcribers, in terms the moſt flattering and honourable.

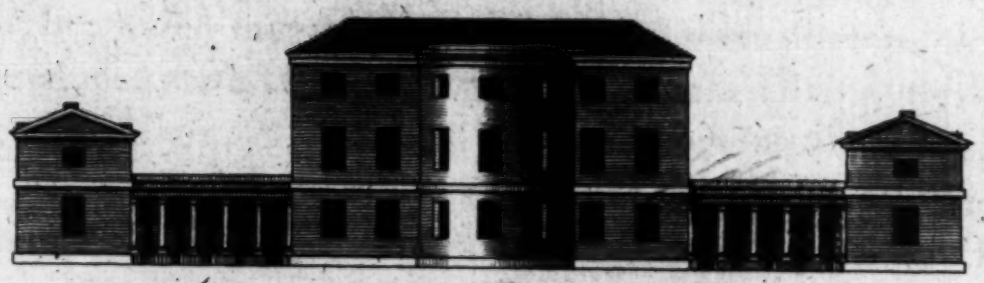
Officers appointed at the eſtabliſhment of this houſe were: Preſident, His Grace the Duke of Montague. Vice-Preſidents, the Earls of Huntingdon, Stamford, Harborough; Lords Viſcount Wentworth and Maynard; Viſitor, the Right Rev. the Lord Biſhop of Lincoln; Phyſicians, Dr. Vaughan and Arnold; Treaſurer, Joſeph Bunney, Eſq.; Auditors, Samuel Oliver, and Henry Coleman, Eſqrs.

The ſurgeons of Leiceſter attend in weekly rotation.

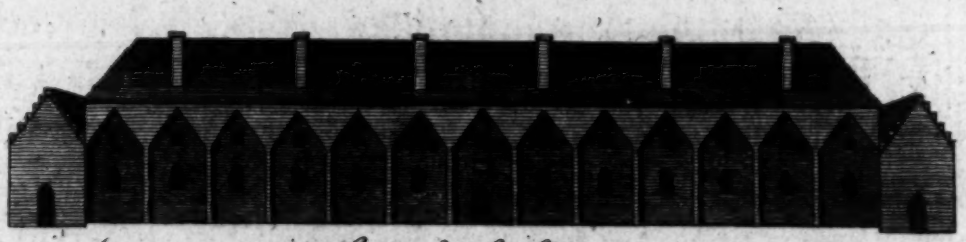
On



The North Front of Leicaster Infirmary.



The South Front of Leicaster Infirmary.



Trinity Hospital Rebuilt by His Majestry George III.



The County Goal.

J. Wigley

G.R. III.

On Wedneſday, Sept. 11, 1771, being the day appointed for opening the Leiceſter-Infirmary, about half paſt ten in the forenoon, the Governors, attended by the biſhop of Lincoln, formed a proceſſion to St. Martin's church; upon their entrance into which, a grand overture was played; and, during intervals in the church-ſervice, ſeveral ſelect pieces were performed from the MESSIAH, by the moſt capital performers from London and other parts of the kingdom. After which the biſhop of Lincoln preached a ſuitable ſermon on the occaſion, from St. Mark, chap. 1, and the former part of the 34th verſe: "And he healed many that were ſick of divers diſeaſes." The ſervice concluded with the Coronation-Anthem. Divine ſervice being ended, the Biſhop, attended by the Governors and an amazing number of decent ſpectators, went to the Infirmary, which they opened with great ſolemnity, and admitted therein one patient. From the Infirmary the gentlemen returned to the Three Cranes, and the ladies to the Three- Crowns, where genteel ordinaries were provided for them. The collection at the church-doors, which was made by lady Robinſon, and the lady of Anthony James Keck, Eſq. amounted (including the admiſſion tickets) to 233l. 14s. 10½d.

In the evening there was a grand concert at the New Aſſembly-Room, to the moſt brilliant company that had ever met there on any former occaſion. The firſt violin was played by Mr. Fiſher; the hautboy ſolos by Mr. Fiſcher, and the ſongs by Mr. Vernon and Mrs. Barthelemon, attended by a large band of gentlemen performers, and the band of muſic belonging to the Blues. The whole was conducted by Joſeph Cradock, Eſq. and the Rev. Mr. Jenner. The admittance-tickets into the concert amounted to 98l. 10s.

The gentlemen, in the moſt ſpirited manner, continued the anniverſaries for the benefit of the inſtitution; and at one of them the band was ſo great and excellent, that a capital London performer obſerved, that if the great Handel had been living, and preſent on the occaſion,

he would have declared, that then was the firſt time his *Te Deum* was performed agreeable to the ſublimity of his conceptions.

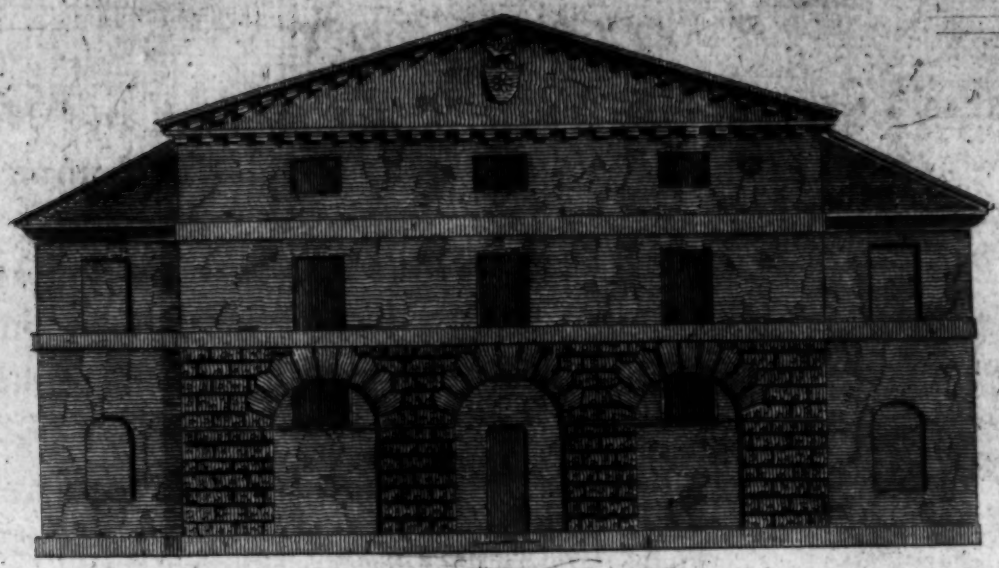
The following are ſome of the names of thoſe noblemen and gentlemen who were the firſt and greateſt benefactors to the Infirmary: Shuckburgh Aſhby, Eſq. 300l, Joſeph Cradock, Eſq. of Leiceſter, 100l. Sir Woſtan Dixie, Bart. 100l. John Darker, Eſq. 300l. Charles Jennens, Eſq. 100l. Anthony James Keck, Eſq. 300l. and 500l. left to him by his mother to be diſpoſed of to charitable uſes. Sir John Palmer, Bart. 300l. Charles James Pack, Eſq. 100l. Sir George Robinſon 100l.

Annual ſums: Joſeph Bunney, Eſq. 10l. 10s. Sir Thomas Cave, Bart. 10l. 10s. Joſeph Cradock, Eſq. of Gumley, 10l. 10s. Right Hon. the Earl of Denbigh, 21l. Right Hon. the Counteſs of Denbigh, 10l. 10s. Right Hon. the Earl of Huntingdon, 20l. Charles Jennens, Eſq. 10l. 10s. His Grace the duke of Montague, 20l. Right Hon. Lord Maynard, 10l. 10s. Samuel Phillips, Eſq. 10l. 10s. and a gift of 50l. Henry Palmer, 10l. 10s. Right Hon. the earl of Stamford, 20l. Right Hon. Lord Viſcount Wentworth, 15l. 15s. Mrs. M. Wigley, 10l. 10s. And Mrs. Anne Wigley, 50l. and 2l. 2s. per annum, &c.

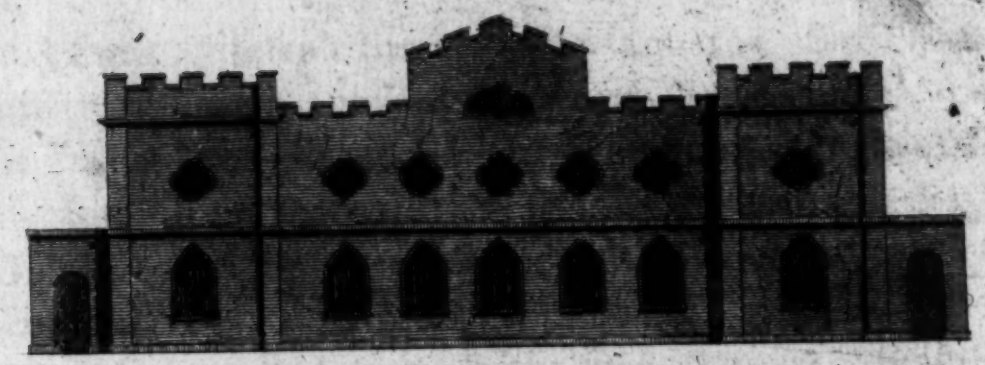
An additional wing was ordered to be added to the building for lunatics, June 16, 1781. This meaſure was ſtrongly recommended by Dr. Vaughan, and a legacy of 1000l. was left for that purpoſe by the late Mrs. Topp. The building was completed in conſequence, but it has never yet been opened for the reception of thoſe for whom it was erected. It ſtands a uſeleſs and diſgraceful pile; it is hoped, not by negligence or perverſion. Other bequeſts for the purpoſe of its being opened have been received, one of which was left by the late Mrs. Ann Wigley, amounting to 200l. This building ſtands at the Weſt end of the Infirmary, and now ſerves only to deſtroy the ſymmetry of the South front.

G.P. III.
BRITISH MUSEUM

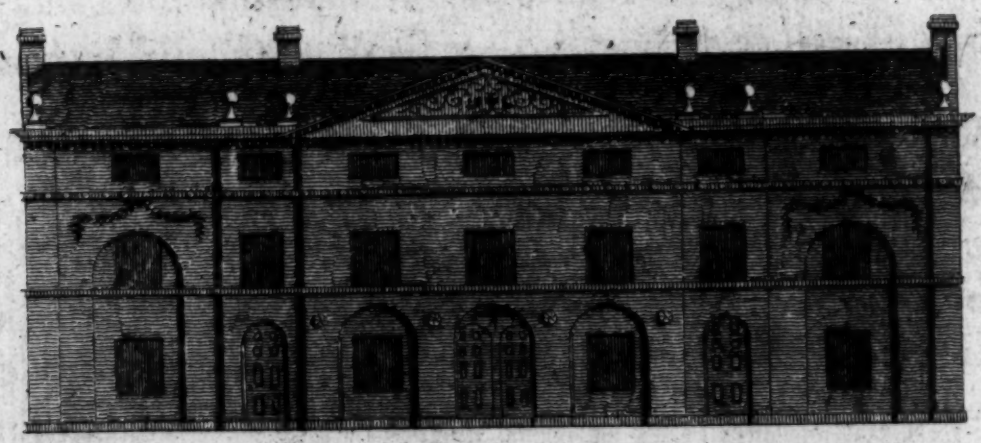
p.315



TOWN GOAL 1793



Conſanguinitarium and the Buildings.





WIGSTON'S HOSPITAL.

p 305

In September 1788, the biſhop of Lincoln preached at St. Martin's, at the Infirmary meeting, and ſignified his Majeſty's gracious intention of giving to that charity, from the ſale of Thurnby eſtates, which belonged to the Wharton family, 2000l. 3 per cent. conſols. with intereſt from the year 1782. At that meeting, it appeared that there had been received by legacies, benefactions, ſubſcriptions, &c. &c. ſince its opening, the ſum of 23,548l. 14s. 9d. Out of which ſum there then remained 379l. 13s. 8½d. And that there had been cured, In-patients 3384. Out-patients 1320, in all 4704. In-patients relieved 399. Out-patients 401, in all 800, which make together, cured and relieved 5504.

CONSANGUINITARIUM.

This is a building of ſtone, finiſhed this preſent year 1792, named by and erected at the expence of John Johnſon, Eſq. a native of this place, now an eminent banker in London. As I have given an engraving of this building, I need not deſcribe it particularly as to its form. It ſtands in Southgate-ſtreet, near the water-houſe pump, partly ſcreened by the houſes which bound the ſtreet.

Mr. Johnſon has not, at preſent, obliged the world with his intentions reſpecting it; but the prevailing opinion is, that he intends opening it as an hoſpital or an aſylum for his kindred (while any can be found needy and worthy objects), as the name *ſeems* to import. Farther, a report prevails that he intends endowing it with the buildings he erected ſome years ſince near it, on the ſpot he was born. Theſe houſes are occupied by genteel families, and are repreſented on the ſame plate.

The rooms of the hoſpital are neat and convenient. The windows are glazed with beautiful ſtained glaſs. Each dwelling has a room on the ground-floor, and a chamber over it.

While Mr. Johnſon is living, more cannot, with modeſty, be ſaid.

SEC-

SECTION IV.

THE EARLS OF LEICESTER.

From Mr. STAVELEY's MS.

MR. CAMDEN, in his excellent "Britannia," ſays, that Leiceſterſhire has been more famous from time to time, by reaſon that the earls thereof have been very renowned; for, under the Saxons government, Leiceſter had earls by inheritance. And ſeeing that the city of Leiceſter was ſituated almoſt in the middle of the kingdom of Mercia, and, as it were, the metropolis of that kingdom, as that was the moſt ſpacious and potent kingdom in the Heptarchy; ſo the earls of Leiceſter we find frequently ſtyled, or called, Earls of Mercia. And Mr. Burton, in his Deſcription of Leiceſterſhire, when he comes to ſpeak of the earls of Leiceſter, of which he gives us the names and deſcents only, ſays thus: "Of the old earldom of Leiceſter, I may (under favour) uſe this eulogium, that, for antiquity, territories, caſtles, dominions, monaſteries, colleges, foreſts, chaces, parks, manors, tendencies, demeſnes, ſervices, lands, great command, and delicate ſeats, it was in no ſort inferior to the chiefeſt earldoms in the land." But of all this the reader himſelf may be pleaſed to judge, from thoſe remarks of the earls of Leiceſter, which from the moſt authentic records, hiſtories, and evidences, we come now to exhibit; and in the catalogue of theſe earls we muſt begin with

LEOFRICK, A. D. 716.

This is the firſt earl of Leiceſter which we find occur, and of whom we have any notice tranſmitted to us by record or hiſtory. He was a

Saxon, and all that we find of him is this; that when Ethelbald, a king of the Mercians, founded and endowed the famous abbey of Crowland, in Lincolnſhire, this Leofrick, earl of Leiceſter, ſigned as a witneſs, amongſt others, according to the Saxon mode of affixing croſſes, to the foundation charter of that abbey, exemplified by Ingulphus; and that he left his ſon and ſucceſſor,

ALGAR.

Of this Algar, earl of Leiceſter, we find nothing more, but that he left his ſon and ſucceſſor, another

ALGAR.

This Algar, ſecond of the name, left nothing memorable, but a ſon, the inheritor of the earldom, called

LEOFRICK,

And of this Leofrick we find nothing more but that he was the father of

LEOFWINE.

Of this Leofwine, earl of Leiceſter, I find, he left three ſons, Leofrick, Norman, and Edwin, Of theſe, Leofrick ſucceeded his father in this earldom; Norman the ſecond ſon, was a great companion and friend to Edrick Streona, who in hiſtory appears ſo famous, or rather infamous for his treachery to king Edmund Ironſide; and, with this Edrick, Leofwine was ſlain by Canutus, and more lamented had he been, ſays my author, if he had not ſo fallen with ſuch bad company: Edwin, the third ſon, appears a witneſs, ſigning with his elder brother Leofrick to a charter of king Canutus, of privileges by him granted to the monks of Crowland.

LEOFRICK,

Leofrick, A. D. 1018.

Leofrick, the ſon of Leofwine, in the time of king Ethelred, was confirmed earl by king Canute. As he was earl of Leiceſter, ſo ſometimes he was called duke of Mercia, and ſometimes earl of Hereford, as alſo ſometimes earl of Cheſter; and that might be by reaſon of his reſidence at certain times at thoſe places; it being not unuſual in former times to call thoſe perſons Earls of ſuch places whereat they did reſide, as may appear in thoſe of Strighull, Arundel, Tutbury, Chicheſter, and others, though they were Earls of other counties, or places, in or near whereunto thoſe caſtles where they lived then ſtood.

Upon the death of king Canute, there being no ſmall controverſy amongſt the great ones, touching the ſucceſſion to the crown, this Leofrick, with other principal perſons, advanced Harold Harfoot, ſon of Canutus, to the throne; and upon the death of Hardicanute, he was one of the chief that raiſed king Edward Confeſſor (at that time in Normandy) to the crown.

This earl Leofrick was a perſon of ſingular piety, and about the beginning of the Confeſſor's reign he founded the great monaſtery at Coventry, endowed it with twenty-four lordſhips, and ſo much enriched it with goods, and ornaments, that no religious houſe in England could ſhew ſo much gold, ſilver, precious ſtones, and jewels, as were in this. Nay, W. Malmeſbury affirms that it was ſo enriched, that Robert de Limeſie, biſhop of Coventry, in the time of king William Rufus, ſcraped, from one beam that ſupported the ſhrines, 500 marks of ſilver; and Egelnoth, archbiſhop of Canterbury, in his return from Rome, bought at Pavia the arm of the great St. Auguſtine, for 100 talents of ſilver and one of gold, and ſent it to this monaſtery, which precious relick was there long kept in a ſilver ſhrine.

This earl married Godiva, a beautiful and virtuous lady, who, bearing an extraordinary affection to the city of Coventry, earneſtly ſolicited

Leofrick,

Leofrick, her huſband, that he would make that city free from certain burdens and ſervitudes, to which then it was ſubject; from which he ſeemed much averſe, and ſhe preſſing him the more, that he might quite put her off, told her at laſt, that he was reſolved not to do it, except ſhe would ride on horſeback naked from one end of the town to the other; to which condition ſhe conſented, and upon a day appointed, got upon an horſe naked, with her hair looſe, ſo that it covered all her body, but her legs, and ſo rode quite through the city, returning with joy to her huſband, who thereupon granted to the city a charter of freedom: but which, whether it was a kind of manumiſſion from ſome ſervile tenures, cuſtoms, and exactions, as Jorvallenſis intimates; or a freedom from all manner of toll, except horſes (becauſe the lady's horſe neighed, forſooth, as ſhe rode naked on him), as the vulgar tradition is, I ſuppoſe it not neceſſary in this place to examine. But, for other remarks, touching this noble earl and his lady, the reader is referred to the induſtrious Sir W. Dugdale, who is not ſparing therein, and ſo we only add, that he died, in his own town of Bromelage, A. D. 1057, and was honourably interred in the abbey that he founded, leaving to ſucceed him his ſon

ALGAR.

This Algar, earl of Leiceſter, for ſome miſdemeanor, was baniſhed by king Edward the Confeſſor: but ſome time after coming over into England, with the aſſiſtance of Griffin, Prince of Wales, he ſo behaved himſelf, and carried the matter, that reconciliation was made between the king and him, and Algar reſtored to his earldom; and, not long after dying, was buried in the great monaſtery at Coventry, leaving iſſue two ſons, Edwin his ſucceſſor, and Morcar earl of Northumberland.

Edwin.

Edwin, ſon of Algar, comes next in play. He was a right noble and virtuous perſon; deſerved better fortune than he found: for, after duke William of Normandy had conquered and ſlain king Harold, this Edwin, with his brother Morcar, with ſome other Engliſh, diſdaining a foreign yoke, raiſed forces to oppoſe the conqueror: Morcar betook himſelf to the iſle of Ely, where he was beſieged by the Norman; and Edwin, whilſt he was buſy in gathering forces to relieve his brother, was betrayed by ſome of his own followers, againſt whom, valiantly defending himſelf, he loſt his life; which being told the Conqueror, he compaſſionately wept for the death of ſo brave a man in ſuch a treacherous manner, baniſhing all thoſe that betrayed him, inſtead of rewarding them as they expected. Of any iſſue, or wife, that this Edwin ſhould have, we find nothing: ſo that this noble line became thus extinct; and the next inveſted with this earldom was

Robert de Bellomont,

A Norman, he was ſon of Roger de Bellomont, Lord of Pont-Audemare; and firſt, after the death of Hugh, earl of Mellent, he obtained the earldom of Mellent, in right of his mother Adeline, ſiſter and heir of the ſaid Hugh: and, being a faithful adherer to king Henry the Firſt, againſt his brother Curthoſe, he was thereupon advanced to this earldom of Leiceſter, and with many other gifts greatly enriched by the king. He is charactered to have been a very wiſe, courteous, and ingenious man, vaſtly rich in poſſeſſions, both in England, and in Normandy, but greatly afflicted in his latter time, by reaſon of his young ſecond wife's too great familiarity with another potent lord. One paſſage of him, a little before his death, I cannot omit,

omit,—That being required by his confeſſor to make a reſtitution of what he had gotten wrongfully from any man, he anſwered, 'If I do ſo, what ſhall I leave my ſons?' To whom his confeſſor replied,—'Let them be content with their ancient and juſt inheritance, and what you have lawfully gotten for them, and do you reſtore the reſt, otherwiſe your ſoul will go to hell.' 'Nay (quoth he), I will rather give all to my ſons, and they ſhall do works of mercy for the health of my ſoul.' But it ſeems he would not altogether truſt to that neither, for, he rebuilt the church of our lady within the caſtle of Leiceſter, (noticed, page 217.)

This earl left three ſons, Robert, Waleran, and Hugh, and a daughter named Elizabeth, who was a concubine of king Henry I. Of his ſons, Robert ſucceeded him in the earldom of Leiceſter; and Waleran (theſe two being twins) in the earldom of Mellent. Hugh, ſurnamed Pauper, was made earl of Bedford, but, being a very careleſs, negligent perſon, he fell from the dignity of an earl, to the ſtate of a knight, and at laſt to moſt miſerable poverty and beggary.

Robert Bossu.

Robert Bellomont, ſirnamed Boſſu, ſucceeded, as it is ſaid before, his father in the earldom of Leiceſter, and all his lands and poſſeſſions in England; and followed his father's ſteps in adhering to king Henry I. on all occaſions: very truſty and ſerviceable for ſome time alſo was he to king Stephen, and in his great quarrel took the biſhops of Saliſbury and Lincoln priſoners; but afterwards, falling off to the intereſt of Henry Fitz-Empreſs, he was by him made Lord Chief Juſtice of England, but, being as it ſeems an inconſtant man, at laſt he flung out into rebellion againſt this king; but, not proſpering in his diſloyal attempts, he was taken priſoner by the king's forces, and then having leiſure to repent, after ſome reconciliation made, he ſet himſelf, in ſome meaſure, to expiate his former crimes by ſome pious and reli-

gious acts; which were great and many, and far beyond thoſe of his father. For, by the conſent of Alexander, biſhop of Lincoln, he founded that opulent and ſtately abbey for canons regular of St. Auguſtine's order, called De Pratis, in the ſuburbs of Leiceſter, in honour of the Aſſumption of the Bleſſed Virgin Mary, and amply endowed it; partly with the poſſeſſions which his father had beſtowed on thoſe ſecular canons by him founded in the caſtle of Leiceſter, as hath been ſaid before, but with much more of his own proper gift.

(Leiceſter Abbey is noticed p. 281.)

He alſo founded the abbey of Gerenden, in the county of Leiceſter, for Ciſtertian or White Monks; and the monaſtery of Nuneaton, in the county of Warwick, for nuns: as alſo the priory of Luffield, in the county of Northampton, for monks of St. Benedict's order; all which have been endowed liberally with lands and revenues.

He was alſo a ſpecial benefactor to the monks of St. Ebrulf, at Utica, in Normandy, freeing them from paying of tithes for their lands in Leiceſterſhire, as well in the Foreſt of Leiceſter as elſewhere, acquitting them from herbage and paunage for their hogs: he alſo gave them nine burgeſſes within the walls of Leiceſter, and five without, with the tithes of all his own demeſne lands in that town: alſo the churches of Glenfeld and Belgrave; the chapels of Kirby and Braunſton, and two yard land, with tithes and other appurtenances, in Yrkinſton. He gave them alſo two parts of the tithes of the two halls in Humberſton, and one yard land; and alſo the tithes of the whole demeſnes in Evington, Ygwardby, Sileby, Thorp-Ernald, Brentingſby, Waltham, Wikingeſton, and Houtheby.

To the abbey of Lira, in Normandy, he gave the church of Warham, and one hide of land there; as alſo the church of Hinckley, with the chapels of Stoke and Dedlington, in com. Leic.; the church of Eaton, with the chapel of Attelburgh, com. Warw.; the church of Sibbeſdume, with the chapels of Widerdeſley, Atretune, Huptone, and Draitone; and alſo the church of Hecham, with the

chapel

chapel of Lindley, in com. Leic.; whereupon the monks of Lira made Hinckley a cell to that foreign monaſtery.

To the monks of Bec, in Normandy, he gave the lordſhip of Chinchebirick.

To the nuns of Godſtow, in com. Oxon. he gave three pounds per annum in Halſo. To the canons of Sulby, com. Northt. he granted fuel for their fire out of his woods called Ighey, as much as they could carry with one cart twice every day, from Eaſter till Michaelmas; with freedom of toll for whatſoever they ſhould buy or ſell in the market of Leiceſter; and to the Knights Templars he gave a mark, yearly rent, out of the mill at Scheravene.

Amicia, the lady of this earl, became nun, at Nuneaton, and there died and was interred. The earl her huſband, by her conſent, took the habit of a canon regular in his abbey of Leiceſter; and, after he lived in that quality for fifteen years, he there died in that habit, and was buried on the South ſide of the choir; but there ſeems a little difficulty to reconcile all this, in regard it appears, by ſeveral authorities and inſtances, that he exerciſed ſecular employments for the greateſt part of that time, and that he died Juſtice of England: therefore it muſt be ſuppoſed, that, though he aſſumed the habit of a canon in that abbey ſo long before, whereby he had the more immediate benefit, or hoped ſo at leaſt, of all the devout ſuffrages, faſtings, and alms, of that regular convent, yet, for the better ſervice of the public, conſidering the eminent place of judicature wherein he ſat, he was diſpenſed with, as to the ſtrict obſervance of the rule, in being cloiſtered, as others were.

And that a dereliction of a religious profeſſion, either totally or temporary, hath been practicable upon ſome great occaſion, is very evident from ſeveral inſtances in hiſtory; as a noble houſe in France, now ſurnamed *Archiveſque*, that is, Archbiſhop, returned by diſpenſation to be a temporal man. As it is ſaid that the antient family of the *Monks*, in regard one of that family having been heretofore a monk.

monk by profeſſion, did, by ſuch a diſpenſation to continue his houſe, return to a temporal ſtate. But, to name no more, this county and this abbey were the ſcene of an extraordinary precedent in this argument, and that was in Stephen Segrave, who, in his younger years, was ſhaven a prieſt, in the abbey of Leiceſter; but, that fettered life not ſo well ſuiting with his aſpiring and active genius, he got himſelf diſcharged there, applying himſelf to ſtate-employments, whereupon he was firſt knighted, and by degrees arrived to the greateſt honours an doffices in the kingdom: but, living in a time of evil government, he became much hated, the public miſcarriages being imputed unto him, inſomuch that a great inſurrection was made, and outrages committed againſt him, wherein his manor-houſe, at Segrave, in the county of Leiceſter (which was a very ſtately thing, as Matthew Paris ſays) was burnt down, and his goods and proviſions there, to a great value, deſtroyed. Upon this, Stephen, for his ſafety, the king being alſo made incenſed againſt him, took ſhelter again in the abbey of Leiceſter, where he had his crown ſhaven again, and became a canon in the houſe. But, the times ſettling to be more quiet and peaceable, out he comes again, and, applying himſelf to the king's ſervice, became a great favourite; but at laſt, in old age, when he had taſted ſufficiently of both fortunes, and of the vanities of the world, he returns once more to the repoſe of his religious houſe, and there dies a canon regular. But now to return, having here alſo interred Robert Boſſu, his ſon and ſucceſſor in the earldom of Leiceſter was

Robert Blanchmains.

Robert Bellomont was commonly called Blanchmains, by reaſon of his white hands; he was a ſtrong adherent to young Henry, whom king Henry the Second had crowned in his life-ime, in his rebellion againſt his father. He borrowed what money he could, and got leave to go beyond ſea; and, though he then made oath to be loyal to the

the king, yet, when he got thither, he did all the miſchief he could on behalf of young Henry: whereupon the king marched with great forces to his caſtle of Breteuil, in Normandy, whence he fled, and ſet it on fire. The king alſo, about that time, appointed thoſe who ſtood for him in England, to beſiege the town of Leiceſter; for the Earl's ſoldiers there had ſorely infeſted the country adjacent, and, taking advantage of an invaſion which the king of Scots had then made into Northumberland, they marched to Northampton under the conduct of Anchitel Mallore, at that time governor of Leiceſter, and after a ſharp fight with the burgers there, wherein they ſlew two hundred, they returned to Leiceſter with the plunder of that town. And, not long after this, the Scots king, taking opportunity from thoſe diſturbances, ſent his brother David to take part with the Earl's ſoldiers in Leiceſter; but, before the Scots could reach thither, Reginald, earl of Cornwall, and Richard Lucy, had entered the town, thrown down the ſtrong and almoſt impregnable walls thereof, and burnt almoſt all of it, except the caſtle: and Robert, having had intelligence beyond ſea what danger his men were in here, haſted to Flanders, and thence into England, with a great power of Normans and Flemings; and, landing at Walton, in Suffolk, he attempted the caſtle there, but in vain: thereupon he marched to Hagenet, took that caſtle, and burnt it, and thence to Framlingham caſtle, the ſeat of the earl of Norfolk; but that proving a tough piece, he reſolved ſtraight for Leiceſter, leaving St. Edmundſbury on his left hand; and, as he was paſſing over Farnham Marſh, not far from St. Genoveſe church, he was encountered by Reginald, earl of Cornwall, William, earl of Arundell, Humphrey Bohun, and others of the king's friends, and, after a ſore fight, his army was routed, and himſelf and his counteſs taken priſoners: his counteſs wearing a ring on her finger, with a ſtone of great value in it, threw it into a river, that her enemies might not have it. After this diſaſter, the earl was ſent to the king in Normandy, who impriſoned him, and the earl of Cheſter, at

Falois;;

Falois: and the king, ſome time after returning into England, brought the Earl a priſoner with him, and took into his hands the Earl's caſtles of Leiceſter, Mountſorrel, and Groby. But afterwards, in the year 1177, in that great council, then held at Northampton, the Earl was received into the king's favour, and reſtored to all his lands and poſſeſſions, except the caſtles of Mountſorrel, in com. Leiceſter, and Pacy, in Normandy; and, ſurviving king Henry, he ſtood in good favour with king Richard the Firſt, who ſoon reſtored to him all his other caſtles and lands that were detained, appointing him to carry one of his ſwords of ſtate at his coronation. After this, he took a pilgrimage to Jeruſalem, having firſt confirmed all his father's gifts, and acts of charity and devotion; but died in his return home, and was buried at Duraz, in Greece. He took to wife Petronel, daughter of Hugh de Grentimeſnel, a Norman, baron of Hinckley, and Lord High Steward of England, with whom he had the whole honour of Hinckley, and ſtewardſhip of England. He left iſſue three ſons, Robert, commonly called Fitz-Parnel, i. e. the ſon of Parnel, or Petronel; Roger, biſhop of St. Andrew's, in Scotland: and William, a leper, founder of the hoſpital of St. Leonard, at Leiceſter, and two daughters, Amicia, and Margaret, of whom I ſhall have occaſion to ſay ſomething preſently. In the earldom he was ſucceeded by his ſon,

Robert Fitz-Parnel.

This Robert Fitz-Parnel, being at Meſſina, in Sicily, in his journey to the Holy Land, was inveſted into this his father's earldom of Leiceſter by king Richard the Firſt, with the cincture of a ſword. After this, whilſt king Richard was held captive by the German emperor, the king of France having entered Normandy with an army, taken ſome ſtrong places, and beſieged Roan, this earl being there ſo encouraged the inhabitants to ſtand it out, and make the utmoſt re-

ſiſtance, that the king of France was compelled ingloriouſly to raiſe the ſiege and depart. After this, he joined with John earl of Morton, brother to king Richard, againſt the king of France; but, going out one night upon a deſign, he was unwarily entrapped and taken priſoner, but after ſome time ſet at liberty for the ranſom of 2000 l.

King John was very bountiful to this earl, and gave him all Richmondſhire, with the foreſt and knights fees thereunto belonging. He was a perſon of great valour; and, being in the Holy Land, where he bore the arms of his maſter king Richard, he unhorſed and ſlew the infidel Souldan in a tournament, or duel; and returned afterwards ſafe into England, reſiding, for the moſt part, till the time of his death, at his caſtle of Leiceſter, in which he took great delight, and was very gracious to the burgeſſes and inhabitants of that his town (*a*).

In the year 1204, this earl died, and was buried in the abbey of Leiceſter before the high altar, betwen his mother and his grandfather. He had taken to wife Lauretta, daughter of William lord Braſſe of Brambre, but by her had no iſſue; ſo that the great inherirance that he had from his anceſtors came to his two ſiſters, viz. Alicia, the wife of Simon de Montfort, and Margaret, the wife of Saer de Quinci; between whom it being divided, Simon had the moiety of the poſſeſſions of the earldom of Leiceſter with the honour of Hinckley, for the purparty of Amicia; and, thereupon being created earl of Leiceſter, he enjoyed the ſtewardſhip of England in right of that honour of Hinckley; and Saer de Quinci, having the other part of the poſſeſſions of this earldom, was made earl of Wincheſter.

Simon de Montfort.

How this Simon de Montfort came to be earl of Leiceſter is fully related before. He was great grandchild to Almarick, an

(*a*) See a charter of his p. 32, and a repreſentation of the ſeal annexed thereto.

illegitimate ſon of Robert king of France; and, being a very turbulent man, he became rebellious againſt king John, joining with the French againſt him. Whereupon he was diſpoſſeſſed of the earldom of Leiceſter, alſo of the honour of Hinckley, and, with his ſons, baniſhed the realm, and his earldom given to Ranulph earl of Cheſter. Being thus diſinherited and baniſhed, the next thing we find memorable of him is, that, there being a certain ſort of men called Albigenſes, who zealouſly appeared in France at that time againſt the corruptions of the popes and church of Rome; the pope ſent out a cruſade, exciting and inviting all Chriſtians to extirpate thoſe men; and, amongſt thoſe that took upon them the ſign of the croſs for that purpoſe, this Simon was a principal man, and became general of an army at the ſiege of the city of Tholouſe, in which the Albigenſes were; at which ſiege he was ſlain with a ſtone hurled from an engine by the beſieged, leaving iſſue two ſons, Almarick and Simon. Almarick went ino the Holy Land, leaving a petition to king Henry III. to reſtore his brother Simon to the earldom of Leiceſter; and Simon, coming into England, was graciouſly received by the king, and reſtored to the earldom of Leiceſter and ſtewardſhip of England; of all which he obtained a releaſe from his brother Almarick alſo, of all his right to the earldom, and all other the poſſeſſions in England which were his father's; and ſo we have the ſecond

SIMON DE MONTFORT, 1238.

This Simon, being thus inveſted with his earldom of Leiceſter and ſtewardſhip of England, not long after obtained for his wife, Eleanor, the king's ſiſter, then the widow of William Marſhall the younger, earl of Pembroke; but at that the nobles and the whole kingdom were highly diſcontented, in regard ſhe had, in her widowhood, vowed chaſtity, in the preſence of Edmund archbiſhop of Canterbury and

divers

divers of the nobility. Upon this, the earl raiſed all the money he could, and went to Rome, where he purchaſed a full diſpenſation, and obtained letters from the pope to Otto his legate, then reſident in England, to give ſentence for him; and at his return was received graciouſly by the king, and was one of the godfathers to prince Edward, born ſhortly after. Farther to expiate that fact of marrying a lady that had vowed chaſtity, he was ſigned with the croſs, and went a voyage to the Holy Land, with Richard earl of Cornwall, and returned ſafe home, and became a very buſy and active man, both here and in France; and great complaints were made againſt him to the king, and the king's affections became totally alienated from him. Great diſſention alſo happening between him and William de Valence (brother to the king by the mother), and Valence calling him *Traitor*, the king had much ado to withhold Simon from killing Valence, even in the king's preſence; and at another time the biſhop of Bath called him *Old Traitor*; at which he was ſo provoked, being a right ſtout man, that thoſe who were preſent made great difficulty to ſave the biſhop from his fury.

And now comes the time that great diſcontents aroſe between the king and his nobles; and, a parliament being appointed at Oxford, he came thither in confederation with the nobles, who brought many armed along with them; and, finding their ſtrength, they boldly required the king's confirmation of that charter of liberties that king John had granted; requiring alſo ſuch a juſtice of England as might do equal right (as they expreſſed) to rich and poor; to all which the king, though very unwillingly, conſented. They then drew up certain ordinances, as they called them, amongſt which one was, that no alien ſhould have to do in matter of rule or counſel; but, Valence refuſing to deliver up his office, Simon plainly told him, that either he muſt deliver up, or loſe his head.

But, ſhortly after, the king having obtained from the pope an abſolution from his oath as to the obſervance of thoſe ordinances, the earl and his party put themſelves into arms, the earl being the general, who ſeized and plundered all the aliens, and others that adhered to the king, that he could meet withal; he alſo took Glouceſter, Worceſter, and Shrewſbury. To oppoſe all this, the king raiſes an army, and at Lewes in Suſſex a battle was fought, wherein the king, prince Edward, and divers nobles, were taken priſoners. Upon this ſucceſs, the earl and his party appoint governors of the realm, and ſent out writs in the king's name and under his ſeals, bearing date Dec. 24, 49 Hen. III. to ſuch biſhops, abbots, and barons, as they thought good, ſummoning them to meet in parliament at London on the octaves of St. Hilary; as alſo precepts to every ſheriff, to ſend thither at the ſame time two knights for each county, and two citizens and two burgeſſes for each city and borough, with barons of cinque ports; this being the firſt time, as is ſaid (for aught is to be ſeen from any good authority), that the people were repreſented in parliament by knights, citizens, and burgeſſes, and conſequently the beginning of the houſe of commons, though they and the lords and barons for many years ſat together in one houſe. For, before that time, the noblemen, biſhops, and great abbots, repreſented all thoſe who held of them; and the king's tenants by military ſervice *in capite* repreſented themſelves and all thoſe who held of them; and the reaſon why thoſe turbulent and potent lords then took upon them to alter the antient former uſage, by requiring two knights to be elected for each county, and one or two burgeſſes for each borough, is conjectured to have been, becauſe they obſerving what great retinues the nobility and other great men in thoſe times had, as alſo the great number of the king's tenants *in capite*, then called *barones minores*, they might think it would have proved dangerous to themſelves, and obſtructive of their deſigns,

to

to permit ſuch a multitude of ſuch men to come together; and therefore conſidering, that though, by the confluence of thoſe many retainers, brought by their own party to Oxford (as before is obſerved), they did at that time ſo far awe the king, that he was conſtrained to aſſent to thoſe unpleaſing ordinances and proviſions of Oxford, framed by themſelves, they had cauſe to ſuſpect, that, by the like tumultuous meetings (if not thus prevented), they themſelves might be diveſted of that power, which, by the ſame artifice, they had formerly gained. But now this way of repreſenting the commons in parliament by knights and burgeſſes, being experienced very convenient and agreeable, hath ever ſince obtained practice and continuance, and by uſage became a fundamental part of the government. And whereas the lords and commons for ſome time ſat together in one houſe, as before is obſerved, when it was perceived that occaſioned great delays in their proceedings, the houſes divided themſelves, and the commons ſate in the chapter-houſe of the abbot of Weſtminſter, and then the commons firſt began to have a ſpeaker of their own. But of this (I hope no unacceptable digreſſion) enough; and now we return again to our earl of Leiceſter.

This earl having got the king and prince in his power, as before is ſaid, he ſends the prince to the caſtle of Hereford, to be there kept; and the king he keeps, carrying him along with him in his march up and down the country. But, not long after, ſeveral diſguſts, heats, and animoſities, happened between the earl and ſeveral others of the great lords his complices, about the diſpoſal and partage of their royal prizes; and, the pope having ſent out excommunications againſt them all, ſeveral of the great lords fell off from him, amongſt whom the earl of Glouceſter, a very potent man; and the prince, by a device, having gotten from his impriſonment at Hereford, gathering together a powerful army, firſt defeats young Simon de Montfort, the earl's ſecond ſon, who was coming with a great ſtrength ont of the North to reinforce his father; and then, meeting the earl himſelf at Eveſham,

a

a bloody battle was fought between them, wherein this earl Simon, and his eldeſt ſon Henry de Montfort, were ſlain, and moſt of his party either ſlain or taken priſoners, and the king reſcued and ſet at liberty. Young Simon had got into the ſtrong caſtle of Kenilworth, which he, with ſome of the routed party that got to him, kept, and held out a ſiege for ſix months againſt the king's forces; in which time ſome articles were made, commonly called *Dictum de Kenilworth*, which the beſieged, by reaſon of ſcarcity and diſeaſes among them, were conſtrained to yield unto, and ſo the caſtle was delivered up. Upon this, Simon the ſon went beyond the ſeas; and being at Viterbium in Italy, with his brother Guy de Montfort, they joined together in killing Henry, eldeſt ſon to Richard king of the Romans, an earl of Cornwall, in the church of St. Silveſter there, as he ſtood at maſs, the murderers never afterwards returning into England, as I can learn; and in this manner ended the line of the Montforts, I mean as to the earldom (*a*). Neither do I find that this earl Simon was author of any great or conſiderable works of piety or charity, only that he gave a good quantity of land, and a wood in Rothley, to the Knights Templars, with a certain meadow called Ballholme; and having a great reſpect to, and tendering very much the good and welfare of his burgeſſes and town of Leiceſter, he granted them ſpecial charter of privilege (*b*).

Edmund Plantagenet, 1267.

After the death and forfeiture of Simon Montfort, which we have before related, king Henry III. gave the earldom of Leiceſter to his ſecond ſon, this Edmund, together with all the lands and poſſeſſions of Simon Montfort, to hold to him and the heirs of his body. He was alſo created the firſt earl of Lancaſter, and alſo earl of Derby,

(*a*) In 1270. Matthew of Weſtminſter. (*b*) See page 40.

and

and as earl of Leiceſter was alſo high ſteward of England. Not long after, he was, with his brother prince Edward and many others, ſigned with the croſs, and went into the Holy Land, whence he returned ſafe home; and here he made a caſtle of his houſe in the pariſh of St. Clements Danes, in the county of Middleſex, called the Savoy; and founded that houſe of nuns, called the Minoreſſes, without Aldgate, in the ſuburbs of London; and was alſo the chief builder of the Grey-friars in Preſton in Amundernes, co. Lanc. After all this, being ſent into Gaſcoigne and Aquitain with an army, he died at Bayon; his corpſe being brought into England and buried in the abbey church of Weſtminſter, where an honourable monument was erected to his memory, on the North ſide of the high altar, yet to be ſeen. He left iſſue two ſons, Thomas and Henry; and was ſucceeded by his ſon

THOMAS PLANTAGENET, 1295.

This Thomas, after the death of his father Edmund, was earl of Lancaſter, Leiceſter, and Derby; and by the marriage of Alice, daughter and heir of Henry Lacey earl of Lincoln, became earl of four counties, by the addition of Lincoln to the three former.

He was the chief of the nobles that combined againſt Piers Gaveſton and the Spenſers, the unhappy favourites of king Edward II. Whereupon two cardinals were ſent from the pope, to reconcile the king and this Thomas his uncle, but the accord was ſoon after broken; whereupon this earl Thomas and his confederates raiſe an army, with which they marched Northward; and, being at Tutbury, the earl ſent one Sir Robert de Holland (whom before he had taken out of his buttry, and preferred to 2000 marks per annum) to bring up 500 men out of Lancaſhire; but Sir Robert treacherouſly carried them to the king, who, then in purſuit of the earl, ſent Edmund earl of Kent, and John de Warren earl of Surrey, who overtook him at Burrough-

bridge in Yorkſhire, where the earl was ſtopped by Sir Andrew de Harcla and others; and this Sir Andrew being invited to join with the earl in his juſt quarrel, as he called it, againſt the Spenſers, upon promiſe alſo of large rewards, and he refuſing, the earl told him he would ſoon repent it, and that he ſhould die a ſhameful death, as it afterwards happened. But Harcla cauſed his archers to ſhoot; and, the earl's party being worſted, he betook himſelf to a chapel, and, looking upon the crucifix, ſaid, "Good Lord! I render myſelf to thee, and put myſelf into thy mercy;" where, being taken, he was ſtripped, and, arrayed in moſt pitiful clothes, was pelted with dirt and deſpitefully uſed, and ſo brought to Pomfret caſtle, where ſentence of death was paſſed on him. At which he ſaid, "Shall I die without anſwer? King of Heaven! have mercy upon me, for the Kings of earth *nous ad guerthy*." Preſently after, he was taken to a hill out of the town, where, after many indignities offered to him, his head was cut off. His body was obtained of the King by the prior and monks, and buried on the right hand of the high altar; but, for a long time after, by many who pitied his fate and favoured his cauſe, this earl was eſteemed a ſaint, and many miracles related to have been done at his tomb and by his relics. And indeed, what eſteem was had of the latter may partly appear by this, that, in the time of king Henry VIII. upon the diſſolution of the monaſteries here, a multitude of falſe miracles and ſuperſtitious relics were detected, and, amongſt the reſt, our Lady's girdle ſhewn in eleven ſeveral places, and her milk in eight. The penknife and boots of St. Thomas of Canterbury, and a piece of his ſhirt, much coveted by big-bellied women. The coals that roaſted St. Laurence; Malchus's ear; the parings of St Edmund's nails: the bell of St. Guthlac, and the felt hat of this St. Thomas of Lancaſter, both remedies for the head-ach, &c. But, not to queſtion further the merits or virtues of the man, or his relics, this is certain, that he died without iſſue; whereby his honours and poſſeſſions came to his brother,

HENRY

Henry Plantagenet.

Thomas earl of Lancaſter dying, as before is ſaid, without iſſue; at a parliament held in the firſt year of the reign of king Edward III, this Henry obtained an act of reverſal of the attainder of Thomas his brother, and thereupon became poſſeſſed of the earldom of Lancaſter and Leiceſter, and of all the lands and lordſhips whereof Edmund his father and Thomas his brother were formerly poſſeſſed. And having obtained alſo the whole honour of Leiceſter, and all the lands of Simon de Montfort, ſome time earl of Leiceſter, he ſettled himſelf to live, for the moſt part, at his caſtle of Leiceſter, wherein he took great delight; and, in the fourth year of the reign of king Edward III. he began the foundation of the hoſpital of our Lady, near his caſtle at Leiceſter; but, in the year 1345, 19 Edward III. he departed this life, and was buried at Leiceſter; the king and queen, with almoſt all the biſhops, earls, and barons, of the realm, being at his funeral; and, in the collegiate church of our Lady there, called the Newark, founded by Henry his ſon, and ſo called to diſtinguiſh it from the hoſpital built before, a fair tomb on the North ſide of the high altar was afterwards erected to his memory. His ſon and ſucceſſor was

Henry Plantagenet.

This Henry was created earl of Derby in his father's life-time, and after his death ſucceeded him in the earldom of Lancaſter and Leiceſter, and in the ſtewardſhip of England. He was a very martial man, and became famous for his proweſs in France and Scotland, as particularized at large by Sir William Dugdale; and, having merited ſo highly by his prudent conduct and renowned exploits in the wars, he was elected into the honourable ſociety of the knights of the Garter, then newly founded, and farther advanced

to the title and dignity of duke of Lancaſter, in 1353, by the conſent of all the prelates and peers then ſitting in parliament; with liberty and power to have a chancery in the county of Lancaſter, and to iſſue out writs there under his own ſeal, as well touching pleas of the crown as any other relating to the common laws of the land; as alſo to enjoy all other liberties and regalities belonging to a county palatine, in as ample manner as the earl of Cheſter was known to have within that county.

Being thus in great honour, and very rich, he undertook an expedition againſt the Infidels. But, as he was paſſing through Germany, he was entrapped and ſurprized by means of Otho duke of Brunſwick, and was conſtrained for his liberty to give 3000 ſcutes of gold; but our duke ſo reſented that ill treatment, that he openly ſaid, that it became not ſuch a perſon as the duke of Brunſwick to deal ſo with a ſtranger in his journey, who had never offended him, nor intended any thing amiſs towards him; and, in caſe he had a mind to meddle with him, he ſhould find him ready to perform a ſoldier's part; which, being told to Brunſwick, he ſent him a letter of challenge, which was readily accepted by our duke, and a time and place appointed for performance in France. All things being made ready, the dukes took their oaths, according to the laws of combat, and our duke mounted his horſe with great chearfulneſs, in expectation to fall to it. But it was obſerved that Brunſwick, although briſk enough before, as ſoon as he had taken his oath, his countenance fell, and his courage ſo quailed, looking pale and trembling, that he could not wield his ſword, ſhield, and lance; whereupon his friends adviſed him to ſubmit himſelf to the king of France's judgement; but our duke, being for that purpoſe alſo moved, ſaid, that before he entered the liſts he ſhould willingly have embraced an accommodation; but now he had mounted his horſe and was ready, and the king, with his nobles, and a great confluence of people, were become ſpectators, he was reſolved

not to go out of the liſts with diſhonour to himſelf or his country. But Brunſwick, wholly giving up the quarrel, without any reſervation of honour, ſubmitted himſelf to the award of the king of France, who ſoon after reconciled them at a great feaſt. After this, the king of France entertained our duke very royally, and, ſhewing him all his rarities, deſired to take his choice of what he pleaſed; but the duke only accepted of a thorn out of the crown of our Saviour, which he brought away, and beſtowed, as a precious relic, in the collegiate church that he had founded near his caſtle of Leiceſter. See the plate facing page 246.

As this duke was very eminent for his arms and valour, ſo no leſs for his piety, being commonly called the Good Duke of Lancaſter. He permitted the canons of Leiceſter to incloſe their woods, 26 Edward III. and ſtored them with deer out of his own parks. He likewiſe ceded with the pope for appropriating the churches of Humberſton and Hungarton to that abbey.

As his father had begun the old hoſpital near his caſtle of Leiceſter, ſo he founded the Newark there, conſiſting of a dean, twelve prebend canons, and as many inferior or lay-brethren; placing alſo an hundred poor people, and ten ſufficient women, in the hoſpital, allotting to them all competent maintenance, the rate of thoſe times conſidered; but theſe works were not fully perfected, till John of Gaunt, in purſuance of his pious purpoſes, performed the ſame.

After all this, by his teſtament, bearing date at his caſtle of Leiceſter, he bequeathed his body to be buried in that his collegiate church, appointing it to be done within three weeks after his death; and, in caſe he ſhould die at Leiceſter, to be firſt carried to the pariſh church, where divine ſervice was to be performed in due manner, with 24 torches, whereof 12, with two cloths of gold, to remain in the church; and that the curate ſhould have his beſt horſe, or the value, in name of a principal; and that his body ſhould be carried thence

to the collegiate church, and there buried without pomp of armed men, horſes covered, or other vanities; only an hearſe, with five tapers, each of an hundred pounds weight, fifty torches about his body, borne by as many men, 25 cloathed in white, and as many in blue. And, not long after, there happening a great peſtilence in England, this great duke died thereof at Leiceſter, and was buried in the before-mentioned collegiate church of his own founding, according to his own appointment.

This duke had to wife Iſabel, daughter to Henry lord Beaumont, and by her had iſſue only two daughters, viz. Maud and Blanch. Maud was married to William duke of Bavarre, Holland, and Zealand. Blanch was married to John of Gaunt, fourth ſon of king Edward III. So that the huſband of the eldeſt daughter was in her right earl of Leiceſter, viz.

William of Bavarre.

This William, as is ſaid before, having married the eldeſt daughter of the duke of Lancaſter, was advanced, in her right, to the earldom of Leiceſter; and a partition being made between theſe two ſiſters of the vaſt poſſeſſions of their father, the honour and caſtle of Leiceſter, with many other manors, lordſhips, and lands, fell to the partage of the eldeſt daughter Maud; but of her huſband and her we find no more but that within a ſhort time they both died without iſſue; ſo that all their honours and poſſeſſions, which Maud had from the duke her father, accrued by ſurvivorſhip unto her ſiſter Blanch, married, as before is ſaid, to

John of Gaunt.

This John of Gaunt, ſo called from the city Gaunt in Flanders, where he was born, by virtue of a ſpecial diſpenſation from the pope, married

married Blanch, the youngeſt daughter and coheir of the duke, ſhe being his near kinſwoman, and was created earl of Richmond; but after, upon the death of William of Bavarre and his wife Maud, without iſſue, as before is ſaid, was created duke of Lancaſter, as alſo earl of Leiceſter, Lincoln, and Derby, and high ſteward of England. He was alſo afterwards made duke of Aquitaine; and, by the marriage of Conſtance, eldeſt daughter and one of the coheirs of Peter king of Spain, he was ſtyled king of Caſtile and Leon, of which he bore the arms. This great duke took great delight in, and lived much at, his caſtle of Leiceſter, finiſhing the collegiate church and hoſpital there founded, and begun by Henry earl, and Henry duke of Lancaſter, as before is ſaid; being alſo very gracious and bountiful to the town and burgeſſes, to whom he granted ſeveral meſſuages, lands, and privileges, as by the grants and charters thereof, ſtill remaining with the mayor and burgeſſes of the town, it doth appear; to one of which, bearing date at his caſtle of Leiceſter, the 26th day of September, in the 16th year of the reign of king Richard II. his ſeal is affixed. See plate, p. 37. (*a*)

The ſon and heir of this great duke John of Gaunt, was Henry, who becoming king of England upon the depoſition of his couſin king Richard II. theſe honours and titles of Lancaſter, Leiceſter, &c. became merged in the crown, and there ſlept until queen Elizabeth advanced to the earldom of Leiceſter

Robert Dudley.

This Robert was ſon of John Dudley duke of Northumberland, beheaded in the reign of queen Mary for endeavouring to ſettle the crown upon the lady Jane Grey, to whom he had married his ſon Guilford Dudley. But this Robert was reſtored in blood by queen Mary, and

(*a*) His donation to the collegiate church in the Newark is noticed in p. 228.

by

by queen Elizabeth made earl of Leiceſter. He was a great favourite of the queen, and a great politician for himſelf. Great honours, employments, and advantages, he had, but went off the ſtage with no applauſe at all. The particularities of his life and actions being recorded and ſet forth at large in ſeveral books and treatiſes, I ſhall forbear any farther remarks upon him here; only that he died at Cornbury park, Sept. 4, 1588. For his iſſue, it is hitherto uncertain whether he left any legitimate or not; his lawful and true marriage with the lady Douglas, daughter to William lord Howard of Effingham, and widow of John lord Sheffield, being dubious, in regard it came in queſtion after his death, and at length adjudged not lawful. Yet, certain it is, that he had a ſon by this Douglas Sheffield, called Sir Robert Dudley, whom he mentions in his laſt will as his baſe ſon; nor could he ſafely call him otherwiſe, having openly married Lettice, daughter of Sir Francis Knolls, and widow of Walter earl of Eſſex, in the life-time of the lady Douglas, and by her had a ſon, but he died young.

Sir Robert Dudley, his ſon by the lady Douglas, proved a very eminent and accompliſhed perſon, for learning, travel, and military affairs, and eſpecially navigation. And, notwithſtanding that his father's character of him in his will, he did not account himſelf illegitimate; for, ſoon after the death of queen Elizabeth, having married Alice, eldeſt daughter to Sir Thomas Leigh, of Stonely, com. War. and conſidering, that, in caſe he made good his legitimacy, not only a good title to the earldom of Leiceſter, but alſo to many good lordſhips, manors, and lands, would accrue unto him, he obtained a commiſſion out of the archbiſhop's court of audience, to examine witneſſes to prove his father's marriage with the lady Douglas his mother. But this being oppoſed by the lady Lettice, dowager of the earl, and the buſineſs being heard and examined in the ſtar-chamber, ſentence was given againſt the earl's marriage with the lady Douglas, though the matters and circumſtances

depoſed

depoſed were very pertinent, and home to the buſineſs, but the credit of the witneſſes was ſuſpected.

Upon this, Sir Robert Dudley conceived ſuch diſcontent, that he reſolved to quit the realm; and for that purpoſe obtained licence for three years to travel into Italy. But, he being gone, his adverſaries procured a ſpecial privy ſeal to be ſent after him, to command his return; whereunto he not obeying, his lands were ſeized by force of the ſtatutes of fugitives, of which Kenilworth caſtle, his chief ſeat, was part. But it was not long after, that prince Henry, affecting this caſtle as one of the moſt noble and magnificent things in the midland part of the kingdom, made overture, by agents to Sir Robert Dudley, to purchaſe his title to it; and thereupon agreement was made, and, in conſideration of 14500l. to be paid within a year, deeds were ſealed and fines levied, ſettling the inheritance thereof, with ſome other lands, upon the prince and his heirs. But the prince died not long after, ſo that there was not above 3000l. ever paid, and to a merchant alſo that broke, ſo that it never came to the hands of Sir Robert. But prince Charles, as heir to his brother, held the poſſeſſion thereof, and, in 19 of James I. obtained a ſpecial act of parliament, to enable the lady Alice, wife to Sir Robert, becauſe ſhe had a jointure therein, to alienate all her right to him as if ſhe had been a feme ſole; which ſhe did in conſideration of 4000l. aſſigned to her out of the exchequer, and certain other annual payments.

Upon the departure of Sir Robert out of England, he took with him (as is credibly reported) a beautiful young lady, the daughter of Sir Robert Southwell, in the habit of a page, whom, it is ſaid, he married in Italy; and, ſeating himſelf in the territories of the duke of Tuſcany, had, by reaſon of his ſingular and excellent endowments, very great eſteem in all thoſe parts. And, his fame ſpreading into Germany, he had, by grant from the emperor Ferdinand II. title of duke conferred on him, 1620, to be uſed by him and his heirs throughout all the dominions

minions of the ſacred empire; whereupon he was generally called duke of Northumberland; as alſo after him was Charles his eldeſt ſon, by the daughter of Sir Robert Southwell. Farther, as a teſtimony of the great eſteem which he there had, the great duke of Tuſcany allowed him a yearly ſtipend of 1000l. ſterling; and the daughters by the wife he took thither were all married to ſeveral princes of the empire. At his abode in Florence he built a noble palace in that city, but, dying at a palace of the duke of Florence's, not far off, in or about the year 1650, his body was firſt laid in the nunnery at Boldrone, to be removed to the church of St. Pancrace, in Florence, where he had erected a noble monument for that wife, with purpoſe to be there interred himſelf; ſeveral ſons he alſo left there, but of their fortunes I can give no farther account. But for his lady Alice, which he left in England, and the five daughters that he had by her, two of his daughters, Alice and Douglas, died unmarried; Katharine was married to Sir Richard Leviſon, knight of the Bath; Frances to Sir Gilbert Kniveton; and Anne to Sir Richard Holborn, ſolicitor general to king Charles I.; and, for the lady Alice, ſhe received the ſaid ſum of 4000l. payable from the exchequer; but of her annuity, or yearly payments, there was a great arrear at the beginning of our late civil wars, for the receipt whereof there being but little hope, and conſidering that her huſband Sir Robert, then alive, had the title of a duke in thoſe foreign parts where he did reſide, and repreſenting the ſame to king Charles I. ſhe obtained a grant under the great ſeal of England, bearing date at Oxford, 20 Car. I. of the title of a ducheſs during her life, and that her daughters ſhould have place and precedence as children of a perſon of that degree. And this lady Alice was that ducheſs Dudley that lived for many years in the pariſh of St Giles in the Fields, in the ſuburbs of London, and died in 1669, being a perſon of great piety, prudence, temperance, and thrift, whereby ſhe became inabled and diſpoſed to do many extraordinary acts of piety and charity,

charity, both in her life-time and at her death; of ſome of which, for the exemplarineſs thereof, I will take the liberty here to give a brief inventory; viz.

She gave 100l. to the rebuilding of the church of St. Giles, with rich hangings for the Eaſt end of the chancel; hanging of green velvet for the back of the altar; a carpet of green velvet, with a deep gold fringe, and a cover of cambrick thereto, edged with rich bone-lace; alſo, one other altar-cloth of damaſk, and two cuſhions richly embroidered with gold; and two ſervice-books with boſſes of ſilver; and a large turkey carpet for the altar, to cover it on ordinary days; alſo, a rich ſkreen of carved work, to ſever the chancel from the church; alſo a fair organ, with a caſe richly gilt; a coſtly rail about the altar; large and rich plate for the altar, ſilver and gilt; a pavement for the chancel, of black and white marble; the great bells, with frames for all the reſt, new-caſt at her own charges. Alſo, to the churches of Stoneley, Leek-Wotton, Manceter, Aſhow, Kenelworth, and Monks Kirby, all in com. Warwick, 20l. per annum to each of them, augmentation of their poor reſpective vicarages.

Alſo, to every of thoſe churches, as alſo to thoſe at Bitford, Acton, Patſhull, and St. Albans, certain pieces of communion plate very rich.

Alſo, a fair houſe and garden, near the church of St. Giles, for the parſons to dwell in; with a ſtipend yearly to the ſexton there, to toll the great bell as priſoners paſs to execution at Tyburn, and to ring it out after execution.

Alſo, great ſums towards the repair of Lichfield cathedral, and St. Sepulchre's church, London.

Alſo, 100l. per annum for ever, towards the redemption of Chriſtian captives from the Turks.

Alſo, 400l. to purchaſe lands for the hoſpital ſituate near St. Giles; and 200l. to purchaſe lands of 10l. per annum value, for putting out poor children of that pariſh apprentices.

Alſo, to the poor of Stoneley, Kenilworth, Leek-Wotton, Aſhow, Bitford, Patſhull, Lichborow, and Blakeſly, 100l.

Alſo, 50l. to be diſtributed at her funeral to the poor of St. Giles.

Alſo, to 90 poor widows (ſhe being ſo many years old), to each of them a gown of black cloth, with a large holland kerchief, to attend her hearſe at her funeral (which was on March 16, 1669), beſides twelvepence apiece for their dinners that day.

Alſo, five pounds to every pariſh, for their poor, where her corpſe ſhould reſt, in her paſſage from London to Stoneley, in Warwickſhire, where ſhe was buried under a noble monument by her erected in her life-time; and to every poor body on the road ſix pence. Alſo, to the poor of Stoneley, to be diſtributed at her funeral, 50l. To the poor of the pariſhes of Blakeſly, Patſhull, and Lichborow, 10l. to be ſo diſtributed. She departed this life, at her houſe near the church of St. Giles, Jan. 22, 1669.

And now having ſeen the fates and fortunes of the Dudleys, we muſt look for the ſucceding earls of Leiceſter in another line, wherein we meet with

Robert Sidney.

Sir Henry Sidney, three times lord deputy of Ireland in the reign of queen Elizabeth, by his wife the lady Mary, eldeſt daughter to John duke of Northumberland, and ſiſter to Robert Dudley earl of Leiceſter, had iſſue three ſons, Sir Philip, Sir Robert, and Sir Thomas. The learning, merit, and virtue, of Sir Philip Sidney are ſufficiently known; but he being killed at a battle near Zutphen, in the Low Countries, 1586, and leaving iſſue only one daughter, his brother Robert ſucceeded him as the next heir male; and in the firſt year of the reign of James I. he was made a baron of this realm, by the title of lord Sidney of Penſhurſt in Kent; in the third year of king James he was made viſcount Liſle; and in the 16th year of that king dignified with

with the title of earl of Leiceſter; and he dying at Penſhurſt, July 13, 1626, was there buried, leaving his ſon and ſucceſſor,

ROBERT SIDNEY.

This Robert earl of Leiceſter was a perſon of great wiſdom and gravity, employed in embaſſies beyond the ſeas by king Charles I. and continued privy counſellor to king Charles II. till his death, which happened Nov. 2, 1677. By his wife Dorothy, daughter of Henry late earl of Northumberland, he had four ſons and eight daughters; of which ſons, the eldeſt,

PHILIP SIDNEY,

who in the life of his father bore the title of lord Liſle, ſucceeded him in the title of earl of Leiceſter.

Here ends Mr. Staveley's account of the earls of Leiceſter. It has been obſerved, p. 178, that it was chiefly collected from Dugdale's Baronage and Monaſticon; which information, in noticing the earls before the Conqueſt, is drawn from *Ingulphus*, *Simeon Dunelmenſis*, *Roger Hoveden*, the Chronicle of *Malmſbury*, *John Brompton*, and *Ordericus Vitalis*; ſince, from *Knighton*, *Robert Goezen*, *Matthew Paris*, *Matthew Weſtminſter*, *Hoveden*, &c.

The four ſons of Robert Sidney earl of Leiceſter, noticed above, were Philip, Robert, Algernon (who was beheaded), and Henry.

PHILIP SIDNEY,

the eldeſt, ſucceeded his father as earl of Leiceſter; and married Catharine, daughter of William earl of Saliſbury, by whom he had iſſue Robert, and two daughters.

ROBERT SIDNEY,

at the death of his father, ſucceeded to the earldom; which paſſed in ſucceſſion to his ſon Philip, grandſon Robert, and great grandſons Philip, John, and Joceline, who was the laſt earl of the family, he dying without heirable iſſue. I have not judged it needful to recite here an account of their marriages, deaths, &c.; as earls of Leiceſter latterly, like earls of other places, have ceaſed to live in habits of particular and partial friendſhip with the inhabitants of thoſe places whence they drew their titles. In fact, titles now, which under the Saxons and Normans were not only honours, but dignities of power and truſt, are become ſimply marks of diſtinction; therefore, to the people of thoſe diſtricts which give them titles, their family hiſtory is become of no local import. It is likely that many of our nobility now have not even ſeen the places which give them honourable appellations.

I will juſt therefore remark, that, in 1744, this title was revived in the perſon of Thomas Coke, who died without iſſue in 1759.

The pedigree of the preſent earl of Leiceſter, George Townſhend baron de Ferrars of Chartley (to whom I have taken the liberty of dedicating theſe ſheets) is here annexed, ſaid to be drawn by himſelf. He was created earl of the county of Leiceſter, by patent dated May 18, 1784.

AGE

A GENEALOGICAL TABLE of the Deſcent of the Family of De FERRARS.

(To which the preſent EARL of LEICESTER is the lineal Heir.)

From

The SAXON Earls of LEICESTER.	The NORMAN Earls of LEICESTER.
Algar, 7th Earl of Leiceſter, died 1059.	Robert Bellomont Earl of Leiceſter, died 1118.
Lucia, only ſurviving ſiſter and heir to Morcar and Edwin, Earls of Leiceſter, married Ranulph de Meſchines Earl of Cheſter.	Robert, 2d Earl of Leiceſter, died 1168.
Ranulph, 2d Earl of Cheſter, died 1153.	Robert, 3d Earl of Leiceſter, Baron of Groby and Hinckley, and Lord Steward of England.
Hugh, 3d Earl of Cheſter, died 1181.	Margaret, ſiſter and co-heir to Robert laſt earl of Leiceſter, married Saier de Quincey Earl of Wincheſter.
Agnes, ſiſter and co-heir to Ranulph, laſt Earl of Cheſter, married Willm. de Ferrars Earl of Ferrars and Derby.	Roger Quincey, Earl of Wincheſter, died without male iſſue.
William Earl of Ferrers and Derby, Baron of Tutbury and Chartley. =	Margaret, eldeſt daughter and co-heir of Roger Earl of Wincheſter.
Robert Earl of Ferrars and Derby, loſt his eſtate in the Civil wars, temp. Hen. IIIs died 1278.	William de Ferrars 2d ſon, 1ſt Baron of Groby.
John, 1ſt Baron of Chartley.	William, 2d Baron of Groby.
Robert, 2d Baron of Chartley.	Henry, 3d Baron of Groby.
John, 3d Baron of Chartley.	William, 4th Baron of Groby.
Robert, 4th Baron of Chartley.	Henry 5th Baron of Groby.
Edmund, 5th Baron of Chartley.	William, 6th Baron of Groby.
William, 6th Baron of Chartley.	Thomas, 2d ſon and heir-male, Lord of Tamworth.
Ann, ſole daughter and heir, married Walter Devereux, Baron of Chartley, jur. Ux.	Sir Thomas Ferrars, Knight.
John Devereux, Baron of Chartley.	Sir John Ferrars, Knight.
Walter, created Viſcount Hereford.	Sir John Ferrars, Knight.
Sir Richard Devereux, ob. V. P.	Sir Humphrey Ferrars, Knight.
Walter, created Earl of Eſſex.	Sir John Ferrars, Knight.
Robert, 2d Earl of Eſſex.	Sir Humphrey Ferrars, Knight.
Dorothy, ſiſter and co-heir to Robert 3d Earl of Eſſex, married Sir Henry Shirley.	Sir John Ferrars, Knight.
Sir Robert Shirley, Bart.	Sir Humphry Ferrars, Knight.
Robert, Baron of Chartley, created Earl Ferrars.	John Ferrars, of Tamworth, Eſq.
Robert Shirley, eldeſt ſon, ob. V. P. =	Sir Humph. Ferrars, Knt. ob. V. P.
	Ann Ferrars, heir to her Grandfather.
Eliz. Shirley, Baroneſs de Ferrars, &c. married James Compton, Earl of Northampton.	
Charlotte Compton, Baroneſs de Ferrars, &c. married George Townſhend, Viſcount Townſhend.	
George Townſhend, Baron de Ferrars, &c. created Earl of Leiceſter, 24 Geo. III; 18 May, 1784.	

SEC-

SECTION V.

THE PRESENT STATE.

LEICESTER, according to Mercator, is ſituate in the latitude of 54 degrees, and in the longitude of 20. It is an inland town, which lies nearly in the center of the kingdom, and is watered by the old river *Leire*, or *Legre*, now Soar, whence it takes its name; diſtance from London 98 miles.

River Soar.

This ſtream riſes at a place called *Soar Mill*, a little beyond the hamlet of Sutton, in the pariſh of Broughton, about 7 miles from Leiceſter; and paſſes on, by Croft, Narborough, and Ailſtone, to Leiceſter, where it divides into two ſtreams, one of which is called the Old Soar. The other paſſes juſt under the old Roman town, probably a cut made by that people for convenience. Near the Bath gardens they nearly inſulate a plot of land, the property of Joſeph Cradock, Eſq. whereon ſtood the Anguſtin friary (*a*). From Leiceſter it paſſes on by Belgrave, Wanlip, Mountſorrel, Barrow, Stanford in Nottinghamſhire, Diſhley, Kegworth, Ratcliffe upon Soar, and thence into the river Trent.

The Soar abounds with fine pike, perch, roach, and large bream; in ſome places there are carp and tench, and in others inferior fry; a

(*a*) Tradition informs us, but with no certainty, that there was a vaulted paſſage under this river from or near Jewry wall to radgate. Some writers have placed the entrance into it in the cellar where the teſſelated pavement was found near the town gaol.

few


G.R. III.



To face the article Leicester Castle in the last Section.

few ſalmon have been caught in this river. Perch have been taken two pound weight, and pike eighteen and twenty; a great weight, conſidering how much and how often the river is netted.

The CASTLE, and its APPENDAGES.

The view annexed is rather a probable than a real view of the antient Caſtle of Leiceſter. Speed, in delineating the plan of the old town of Leiceſter, has given a repreſentation of it, as he has of the churches, newark gate, the town gates, &c.; but we are not to imagine from this that he has given us an exact likeneſs of its ſtate in his time. However, it is the only one I have ever ſeen; therefore, with this help, comparing the ſite, and what ſtill remains, I have ventured to give, what I will call, *A probable view of Leiceſter Caſtle* about the reign of Richard III. My reaſon for fixing on this period is ſhortly this; that, after the great demolition of Leiceſter in the reign of Henry II. the caſtle muſt have been rebuilt, or undergone a grand repair, as it became afterwards the abode of the Lancaſter family for a ſeries of years. Farther, the illuſtrious and beneficent dukes of Lancaſter and earls of Leiceſter, and, at times, the great John of Gaunt, gave ſplendid entertainments to Royalty here, not 200 years before the time I have fixed on. We may date its laſt important ſuffering to have happened, by the accomplices of queen Iſabella, about the year 1326, a little more than 150 years before the reign of Richard, when Henry duke of Lancaſter and earl of Leiceſter was in oppoſition to the intrigues of Mortimer and that queen. From this time it probably haſtened to deſtruction. In the reign of Charles I, prior to the breaking out of the civil wars, I find theſe documents among the Beaumanor papers, reſpecting this caſtle; which give us a tolerable idea of its then ſtate, which in no meaſure claſhes with my repreſentation (*a*).

(*a*) "Charles, by the grace of God, kinge of England, Scotland, Fraunce, and Ireland, Defendor of the Faith, &c. to our truſty and well-beloved William Heyricke, Eſq. greetinge.

The

The hiſtory and magnitude of this caſtle is but little known; but we may gather from the note below that a part of the caſtle or out-

Whereas we are informed that there are ſome old peeces of our caſtle of Leiceſter, parcell of our duchie of Lancaſter, in our county of Leiceſter, yet ſtanding, which are become ſo utterly ruynous, uſeles, and irreparable, and the materials ſubject dayly to waſt and ſtealing, that they are only fitt to be taken downe and ſould to our beſt benefitt and advantage. And wheras wee are alſo informed that the caſtle houſe, wherein the auditt hath beene formerly kept, and is hereafter to be kept, and wherein our records of the honour of Leiceſter doe nowe remayne, is fallen into decay and want of reparacions which our pleaſure is ſhould be again repaired. Knowe you, therefore, that wee, truſting in your wiſdom, diſcrecion, and honeſt indeavour for the furtherance of oure ſervices in the premiſes, doe hereby give unto you full power and authoritie (takeing the advice and aſſiſtance of ſome ſkillful experienced workmen) as well to view and ſurveigh thoſe ruynous parts of the ſaid caſtle which are fitt to be taken down and demoliſhed, and to make an eſtimate of the value of the materials what they may be ſould for; as alſoe to view the decay of the ſaid caſtle houſe, outhouſes, and appurtenances, and eſtimate what the charges of the neceſſary reparacions thereof may amount unto; and with all convenient ſpeede, by your writinge under your hand and ſeal, to certifie our chancellor and counſell of the ſaid duchie of Lancaſter of the qualities and eſtimate of the ſaid materials, as alſoe of the decays and charges of the reparacions of the ſaid caſtle houſe, outhouſes, and appurtenances. And, after ſuch views and ſurveigh ſoe by you taken, wee doe hereby further give unto you full power and authoritie forthwith to expoſe the ſaid materialls to ſale, and to bargain, agree for, and ſell the ſtones, timber, and other materialls of the ſaid ruynated pieces of the ſaid caſtle; and to allowe to ſuch as ſhall buy them ſuch reaſonable time for the carrying away thereof as you in your diſcrecion ſhall think fitt, and as may be with leaſt offence and annoyance to the place where ſuch ſale is made. And our further will and pleaſure is, that you intermeddle not with the vaulte there, nor the ſtaires leading unto it, but that it be ſtill reſerved for our uſe, and the uſe of the keeper of our ſaid caſtle. And alſoe, ſoe many of the ſaide materialls, either of timber, ſtone, or of any other kind, as you ſhall think may be ymployed and uſefull to the reparacion of the ſaid caſtle houſe and buildings thereunto belonging, our will and pleaſure is to be reſerved for that purpoſe, and be allowed and delivered to Edward Lake, gent. our ten'nte, who hath the cuſtodie of the ſaid caſtle and caſtle houſe, to be uſed and employed upon the ſaid reparacions and not otherwiſe. And, laſtly, wee require you, by your writinge under your ſeale, to certifie our ſaid chauncellor and councell, with what convenient ſpeed may be, what the money may come to that is likely to be raiſed by the ſaid ſale, that upon ſuch certificate there maye be order given for the diſpoſinge and accomptinge for the ſame. Provided allways, that this our commiſſion ſhall have continuance until Cr'o Pur' which ſhall be in the year of our Lord God one thouſand ſix hundred thirty ffoure, and not longer. Given at our pallace of Weſtminſter, under the ſeale of our duchie of Lancaſter, the one and twentyth daye of December, in the nynth yeare of our raigne. GERARD."

This inſtrument is on parchment, with part of the duchy ſeal to it.

work, extended over the old cellar, and remained much longer than the front of the main building, where I have repreſented only an embattled wall on the left of the view. This part of the building was only the ſize of the vault; for the foundation of the wall which faced the river is ſtill viſible. We gather alſo, by the inſtruments below, that it is a vulgar error to call the now county-hall *John of*

The two following were in conſequence of the former, both dated the 4th of February, 1633. The ſubſtance of one is:

"A view then taken of the old caſtle of Leiceſter, the ſeſſions hall excepted, that is, of the value and worth of all the materialls of the ſaid old caſtle and ruynous parts thereof, by Wm. Heyrick, Eſq. together with Francis Harris, carpenter, Thomas Ludlam, ſlater, Thomas Green, maſon, whoſe advice and aſſiſtance the ſaid Wm. Heyrick, Eſq. did uſe in the ſaid view, they being ſkillful and experienced workmen, according to the tenure of his Majeſtie's meſſage, directed to the ſaid William Heyrick, Eſq. bearing date the 21ſt day of December laſt paſt.

All and ſingular the materials of the ſaid old caſtle and ruynous parts thereof, that is, all the freeſtone, timber, and ſome few iron bars in ſome of the windows, there being no other materials which may be taken down without any damage or hurt to the vault under the ſaid old caſtle and the ſtairs leading thereto, which vault and ſtairs are by the ſaid commiſſion excepted and not to be meddled withall, are valued to be worth, by the eſtimation of the ſaid workmen, the charge of taking down the ſaid materials being conſidered deducted, the ſum of, that is, for the materials of freeſtone and iron bars in the windows, 36l. 14s. 4d. and for the timber 3l. 5s. 8d." This was ſigned by the above named W. Heyrick, Eſq. and the workmen mentioned above.

The other:

"A view of the neceſſarie decays and defects of the caſtle houſe in Leiceſter, together with the walls about the orchard and yards thereto belonginge, the ould kitchen, called John of Gaunt's kitchen, to the ſaid caſtle houſe belonginge, the ſtables, hay houſe, and all the other out houſes and buildings to the ſaid caſtle houſe belonging (the greate ſeſſions hall, and that parte of the old caſtle in Leiceſter, and all the ruynous peeces thereof ſtanding at the South end of the ſeſſions hall, as alſo the South gate of the ſaid caſtle, and the houſe thereupon built, and the ſtone wall running along from the ſaid ſouth gate to the Luier or Soar, which lieth towards the old hoſpitall within the Neworks in Leiceſter being excepted and not viewed) taken the day above ſaid by Wm. Heyrick, Eſq. together with Francis Harris, carpenter, Thomas Ludlam, ſlater, Thomas Green, maſon, William Hall, glazier, they being ſkillful and experienced workmen, whoſe advice and aſſiſtance the ſaid Wm. Heyrick, Eſq. did uſe and take according to the tenor of his Majeſtie's commiſſion directed to the ſaid William Heyrick, Eſq. bearing date the one and twentieth day of December laſt paſt." The whole eſtimate of repairs was 49l. 5s. 10d. which was ſigned by Mr. Heyrick and the workmen he employed. Among the articles enumerated was this: "In the decayes of the ſhedd over the cellar dore leding into the dungeon, in tymber and workmanſhipp, xx s."

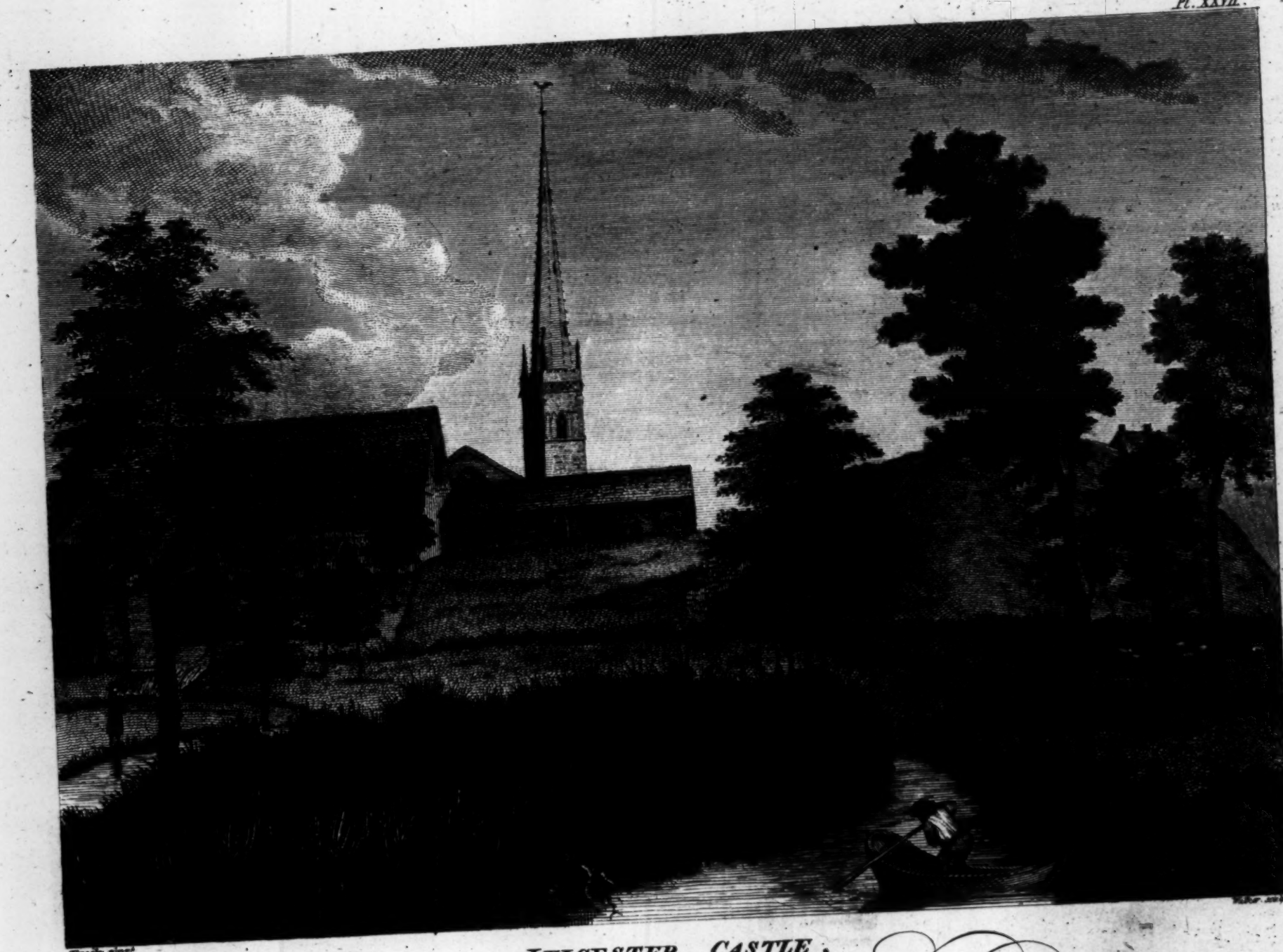
Gaunt's kitchen; it is there mentioned as a diſtinct place. The county-hall is there called the Seſſions-houſe; conſequently, John of Gaunt's kitchen, which is diſtinctly noticed, was an apartment in Mr. Brown's houſe in the caſtle-yard, where there are ſtill ſome very large rooms remaining.

The old *Cellar* or vault, near the mount, remains entire, long and ſpacious, and very filthy. The *Mount* near it was within the *ballium* of the caſtle, and is doubtleſs a Roman labour, probably of the age of the cut from the old river Leir, now Soar (*a*). The *Chapel*, which was alſo within the *ballium* of the caſtle, is remaining, and appears to be a Saxon labour; it is now part of the North aile of St. Mary's church, and, by the outſide towards the caſtle, it ſeems to have extended into the caſtle yard. Into this part of the church the caſtle keeper has a room, which looks into it. Other appendages of the caſtle are the *South gate*, near the Regiſter-office, and the *old wall* leading therefrom, on the back ſide of the old hoſpital to the river, a wall venerable in years. The former ſeparates the caſtle yard from the Newark, and was, till lately, a reſpectable turreted gateway of ſtone, embattled, probably built by the illuſtrious founders of the New-works, now called *The Newark*. The Lancaſter arms, on its South ſide, was lately deſtroyed, when it was houſe-topped; but ſtill emblems of the honours of that noble race appear on the North ſide (*b*). Near the caſtle houſe, now occupied by Mr. Brown, which is a lofty antient building with many ſpacious rooms, as I have obſerved before, is the caſtle ditch, now perfectly viſible, although gardened over. This *only* remains of that ſort of defence belonging to Leiceſter caſtle, lies on the North ſide of Mr. Brown's houſe, near which, at the Southern extremity of the remains of part of the caſtle-wall, ſtood a

(*a*) See p. 17.

(*b*) The arms which were deſtroyed are repreſented p. 3, fig. 2.

kind



Throsby pinx.

LEICESTER CASTLE,

From Braunston-gate Bridge

Publishd by J. Throsby, Leicester, Jan.y 22. 1792. & Sold by W. Walker Rosemans St. London.

kind of ſummer-houſe, in my time, on which was depicted the Lancaſter arms, in high preſervation.

The view which faces this page, ſhews the only remains of the old caſtle as it appeared in 1789; ſince which time ſome alterations have taken place. I took it from Braunſton-gate-bridge, the river view. The oppoſite front, which faces the church, ſhews the modern building, the entrance to the county-hall. Within are evident tokens of Saxon architecture, perhaps done at its rebuilding or reparation by that people *(a)*. The roof of this building is very lofty, and is ſupported by very large oak-trees, wrought into ſquares. The North and South ends are fitted up for the courts of law and juſtice.

The caſtle ſtands lofty, on a ſudden, apparently-natural elevation from the water's edge, almoſt inacceſſible. In my account of Leiceſter abbey, I obſerved, p. 285, that captain Groſe, the elaborate author of the Antiquities of England, Wales, and Ireland, was at a loſs for information reſpecting the antiquity and hiſtory of this caſtle. Writers of antient ſtory have not particularly deſcribed it. On its ſite, it is believed, was erected a place of defence in the time of the antient Britons. It was certainly a dwelling of the Saxon earls of Leiceſter, and ſuffered with the town at the Conqueſt; again in the ſubſequent reigns, as has been noticed. The wounds that are now viſible in the old church of St. Mary teſtify its frequent ſuffering; and the hoſpitable Lancaſter family, which inhabited it, ſhews its conſequence at a diſtant period. Parliaments, I have informed the reader, were holden here, accompanied by the king and the principal nobility of the land, which proves it not only to have been a place of ſtrength but fit for princely accommodation. In the reign of Henry IV. a parliament was held at the caſtle by prorogation from Weſtminſter; and another in the reign of Henry VI. &c.

(a) See a ſpecimen in the plate facing p. 37, fig. 1, 2.

In the body of this work the reader has met with ſome inſtances of information reſpecting this place. I have obſerved, p. 52, that it devolved to the crown in the perſon of Henry IV. ſon of the renowned John of Gaunt.

In 1390, at the feaſt of St. Peter, John duke of Lancaſter made a ſuperb entertainment at his caſtle, Leiceſter, for the king and queen, whom he entertained in Leiceſter foreſt with the ſport of hunting there. At this royal feaſt were preſent, beſides the king and queen, the archbiſhop of York, the duke of York, Thomas duke of Glouceſter, the earl of Arundel, John earl of Huntingdon, and ſeveral other biſhops and nobles, who expreſſed the moſt pleaſing ſatisfaction at the magnificence of the entertainment made by the noble Lancaſter (*a*). From Leiceſter caſtle the king journeyed to Nottingham, and lodged in his way thither at the lord Beaumont's, at Beaumanor, near Loughborough. This nobleman was repeatedly honoured with the company of princes, whom he entertained on their journeys.

Town Gates,

Which originally belonged to the *Walls* of Leiceſter (*b*), now no more (excepting that I have mentioned leading from the South gate noticed in the preceding article), were originally built with the walls, about the time of Edward ſon of the great Alfred. Their ſite was, as uſual, Eaſt, Weſt, North, and South (*c*).

(*a*) Though the excurſions of kings to capital places of the kingdom were not uncommon at theſe times, yet this viſit drew a moſt amazing crowd of people from the adjacent villages, who, with the numbers of town's-people that curioſity brought together, almoſt impeded the paſſage of theſe diſtinguiſhed perſonages to the foreſt.

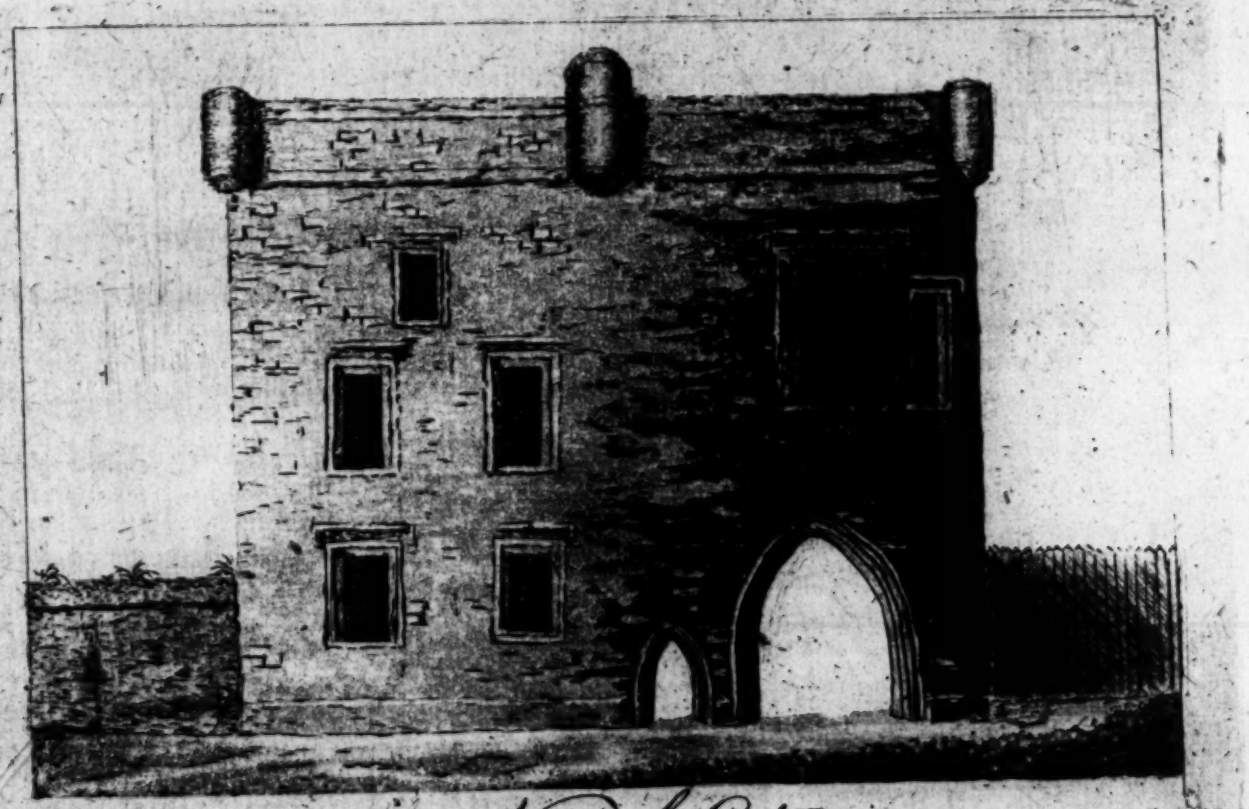
(*b*) See p. 28.

(*c*) Mr. Carte ſays, "Who built them I knew not; and what Mr. Burton ſays of Ethelfreda's repairing them is falſe. For the *Legeceſter* which ſhe repaired was Weſt-Cheſter, Leiceſter being

The







Newark Gate

The gates, as they are now called, are merely a paſſage diſgraceful to the town. The humble *roofs* of the gates were ſold in 1774, being conſidered as obſtacles to the paſſage of a lofty load of hay or ſtraw. The walls which ſupported the roofs were left ſtanding, in general, for a paltry pittance; they were ſold, and perhaps brought the town-purſe, or, as ſome would have it, the corporation-purſe, a few pounds; now not to be recovered, for the enlargement of the reſpective paſſages, for a ſum very conſiderable. Public utility certainly was not conſidered at the deſtruction of the Town Gates, the North and South paſſages are likely long to ſupport this aſſertion.

MAGAZINE.

The repreſentations of this building, facing this page, were taken in oppoſite directions; the firſt the Newark and the other the Street view: It was built with the New-works by the founder of the hoſpital and collegiate church, and is now uſed as a receptacle for the militia arms, and remains as a noble monument of the houſe of Lancaſter.

By letters from the earl of Rutland, in 1682, it appears that it was purchaſed by the county as a magazine for the trained bands; and that ſome gentlemen of the county wiſhed or endeavoured to convert it into a county gaol.

In 1683, the following perſons were recommended by the earl of Rutland as truſtees for this place, viz. the lord Beaumont, lord Ferrers, lord Sherrard; Charles Cockaine, John de la Fontaine, Richard Liſter, Thomas Boothby, Thomas Babington, and Richard Roberts, Eſqrs.

all that time in the poſſeſſion of the Danes till the ſpring of 920, when, indeed, ſhe took it, but died twelve nights before Midſummer following, in which time it was not poſſible for her to accompliſh ſuch a work; and ſoon after her death the Danes recovered it."

In the *Newark*, a ſtill and eligible ſpot of ground, inhabited by families of reſpectability, into which the gate-way leads, is held an annual fair on Shrove-Tueſday, chiefly for the amuſement of young people of both ſexes in Leiceſter. On this day formerly was practiſed, in this place, in its full extent, the barbarous cuſtom of throwing at cocks; where ſome were tied to a ſtake, and others left at liberty, in conſequence of their being trained, to ſhift for themſelves from the well-aimed blow of boys and men, who, with bludgeons, by giving a certain ſum of money (generally two-pence), had ſix throws. Now the amuſement on Shrove-Tueſday is confined to the purchaſe of oranges, gingerbread, &c. and what is called the ancient ſport of *Whipping-Toms*; a practice, I apprehend, originally inſtituted by the dwellers in the Newark to drive away the rabble, after a certain hour, from the fair. It now is the ſport of boys and boyiſh men; two, three, or more men, armed with cart-whips, and with an handkerchief tied over one eye, are let looſe upon the people to flog them, who are, in general, guarded with boots on their legs and ſticks in their hands. Theſe whip-men, called *Whipping-Toms*, are preceded by a bell-man, whoſe ſhake of his hand-bell gives a token or authority for whipping the legs of thoſe who dare to remain in the Newark. Many arts and devices are practiſed by the Whipping-Toms to take the people by ſurprize; but quarrels ſometimes enſue in conſequence which beggar deſcription. The approach of night ends *this* annual holiday.—On an old houſe are the arms, fig. 8, p. 310.

BRIDGES,

of note, are *Sunday's-bridge*, *Weſt-bridge*, *Bow-bridge*, and *Braunſton-gate-bridge*. The firſt ſpans the Soar at the Northern extremity of the town, and conſiſts of ten arches, patched with repairs at various periods; the fence-walls thereon are low and dangerous. The Weſt

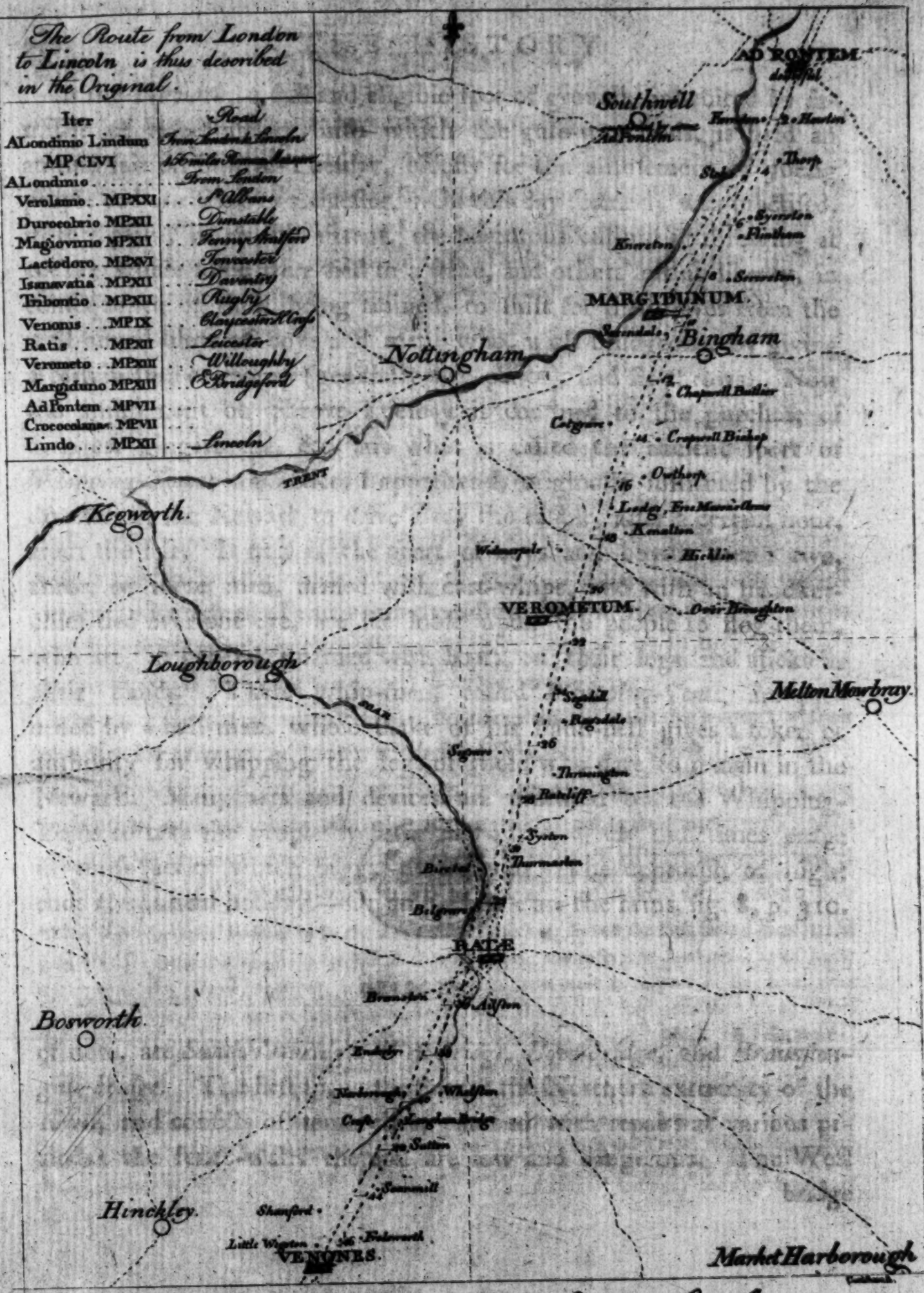
bridge



Roman Route.

The Route from London to Lincoln is thus described in the Original.

Iter	Road
ALondinio Lindum MP CLVI	From London to Lincoln 156 miles Roman Measure
ALondinio	From London
Verolamio . . MPXXI	St Albans
Durocobrio MPXII	Dunstable
Magiovinio MPXII	Fenny Stratford
Lactodoro. MPXVI	Towcester
Ismavatia . MPXII	Daventry
Tribontio . MPXII	Rugby
Venonis . . MPIX	Claycoton or Cave
Ratis . . . MPXII	Leicester
Verometo . MPXIII	Willoughby
Margiduno MPXIII	Bridgeford
Ad Pontem . MPVII	
Crococolana MPVII	
Lindo . . . MPXII	Lincoln



This part of the Roman Route from London to Lincoln, was laid down by J. Throsby from observations, upon an Excursion over it, in Oct.r 1791.

bridge alſo ſpans the Soar, and conſiſts of four arches; it is ſituate near the caſtle. Bow bridge extends over the old Soar, and is, doubtleſs, the moſt ancient and uniform bridge at this place. It conſiſts of five arches, and is repreſented p. 64. Braunſton-gate bridge was widened with brick, and the lane, called Dun's lane, leading to it, made agreeably commodious for paſſengers, the preſent year, 1792. This bridge's ſite is South-Weſtwardly, over the old Soar, and conſiſts of four arches *(a)*. They were all originally built of ſtone; but they are now, excepting Bow bridge, patched with brick.

ROMAN ROUTE,

from the old city of Leiceſter, weſtwardly, was over the Weſt bridge and Bow bridge. I wiſh not to be underſtood that the Romans paſſed over theſe very bridges to and from Leiceſter; but where they are now ſituate were probably the Roman paſſages to and from the city. In p. 13, I have noticed the Foſs way, or Roman route, partly from the accurate obſervation of a learned traveller over it. Here I ſhall ſhew its preſent ſtate from a recent viſit, which I gave in my Leiceſterſhire Excurſions; but, as they may not be in the hands of every purchaſer of this volume, I give my obſervations in paſſing from Newark to High croſs *(b)* in the note below, accompanied with the plan I laid down for the uſe of the reader *(c)*.

Under

(a) Much has been lately done to the improvement of the entrance into the town this way.

(b) Theſe places are ſituate from each other about 47 miles, in a right line; which diſtance contains a part of the Roman military work undertaken by the direction of one of the Antonines, when this country was under the dominion of the Romans. This Roman route, from *Londinio*, London, to *Lindum*, Lincoln, is 156 Roman miles, deſcribed in the corner of the annexed plate.

(c) The great Camden imagined that the world would laugh at his ſeeming folly in traverſing the Watling-ſtreet road (another Roman work), "purpoſely to ſeek out towns of ſpecial memory."

If

Under this article, I judge it neceſſary to mention

A ROMAN ENCAMPMENT near RATBY,

Which I have noticed, p. 12, in my attempt to ſhew the antiquity of Leiceſter. It lies at the diſtance of about 3 miles from the upper line of the Roman route, above the town of Leiceſter; and is an object ſeen

If it ſo happened to that celebrated Antiquary, what muſt I expect, who undertook this journey through mire and clay, in the month of October, urged to it I cannot ſay from ſuch laudable motives, becauſe the ſtations or Roman towns from Newark are now pretty well aſcertained!

Many perſons have written of things concerning theſe *Itinera* who have never ſeen them. Others have ſeen them, like myſelf, partially, and have particularized the whole. My account is confined to general obſervations on its preſent ſtate, as deſtitute of conjecture as, it may be thought by ſome, of real importance. After the paſſing of about 1600 years, we may readily conceive how much it muſt have ſuffered in its form and magnitude. Encroachment, dictated by avarice, has notwithſtanding left it ſtill a monument of honour and high antiquity; its courſe, the diſtance I have travelled it, may be traced with eaſe, even where the lord of the manor has by incloſure called it his own.

The plan of the Foſs road, which I have laid down from obſervations on this journey (not from a ſurvey of mathematical rules and inſtruments, but chiefly from appearance), I flatter myſelf, is done with a tolerable degree of accuracy. It will ſhew the reader at one view the courſe it takes through the country, and it will ſerve alſo as a reference to the general remarks which follow. The part of the road ſtained green ſhews that *there* it is not a gravel road.

I began this route at Newark in October 1791, when on a ſimilar undertaking in Nottinghamſhire to that of my preſent engagements in this county, which in ſome meaſure may ſerve reſpectively for each diſtrict.

Newark, ſuppoſed by ſome to be the Roman AD PONTEM, lies on the Foſs from Lincoln. In vain have the learned ſtruggled to remove *Ad Pontem* hence, and to fix it at *Southwell*, and I know not where. Arguments, however, it muſt be allowed, ſeem more in favour of Southwell than Newark, although the former lies from the road, over the Trent, for more than three miles. Here Roman coins and pottery have been frequently found; but Newark, which was built ſo lately as the reign of king Stephen, is deſtitute of thoſe honourable tokens of antiquity.

The road from Newark to Thorp bar, at the diſtance of about four miles, is ſpacious, on a level country, paſſing through the lordſhip of Farndon to Thorp lane end. And nearly oppoſite to Thorp bar you are in view of Southwell minſter, on the right, over the Trent, which ſerpentines delightfully hereabouts. Here, we are told, was formerly a bridge over the Trent to South-

well

ſeen from Burrow, in this county, 13 miles from Ratby, another grand antient encampment, probably of the ſame age. In addition to what

well (though not a veſtige of it now remains); near which ſtood a ſmall ſtation, it is imagined, as a protection to the paſſage over it. At Stoke, a little farther on the road, perhaps half a mile, there is every appearance of the ſite of a large antient building, which might eaſily command the bridge. It is on a bold eminence, near the church, and overlooks the Trent. (Sir George Bromley's ſeat is on the right of the church a few paces.) The ground on the ſummit of this eminence lies in ridges, over more than an acre of land; it is an admirable ſituation for a caſtle, and commands a great extent of country. It is called the *Hall-Cloſe*, and places near it are called (why I know not) *Stoke-red-gutter*, and *The Blind-Mare's ſteps*. Neither Newark nor Southwell anſwer with reſpect to diſtance ſo well as this place. In the table from *Margidunum* to *Ad Pontem* it is put down ſeven miles, to which the bridge, ſuppoſed to have been over the Trent to near Thorp bar, Southwell, anſwers nearly. The eminence at Stoke, and the place where the bridge ſtood, have a ſhort and eaſy communication.

Great part of the road between Stoke and Eaſt Bridgeford retains its antient and venerable tokens of furrowed age. The gorſe and black thorn ſpring from the uncultivated ſoil, and grow luxuriantly; and in ſome places the ſpreading oaks ſhade the paſſage, and intercept the ſight. Being confined, in conſequence, from viewing diſtant objects, the mind is naturally employed in contemplating the woody ſcenery with which this country abounded, when the Romans made theſe memorable paſſages through it.

Nothing, in my opinion, can rob Eaſt Bridgeford of its Roman honours. Here you have the moſt indiſputable proofs of its high antiquity. An antient encampment; the name of *barrow*, which a place in this field ſtill retains; the diſcovery of Roman coins and Roman pottery; the diſtance from Willoughby, the next ſtation, agreeing exactly with the route; all together form ſuch ſtrong evidence, as will admit of no objection to the general opinion, that Eaſt Bridgeford was the MARGIDUNUM of the Romans.

The road from the Foſs to the village is in a right line, very ſpacious, the length of more than half a mile. The village (or rather the lanes leading to it) is a labyrinth the way I entered it. The numerous paſſages opening to the more numerous incloſures adjoining the village, miſguide you: the trees in the hedge-rows are lofty, numerous, and meet each other; which make the lanes gloomy and miry, and ſome of them almoſt impaſſable.

From a kind of cliff, near the church, you command extenſive proſpects of the country over the Trent; near which commences the upper Foſs-way marked in the plan. I doubt not but moſt ſtations, which lay any way from the road, had another leſs-frequented paſſage, for nearneſs, in a direct line, from the ſtation to the main road. This occurs at Leiceſter.

At a place called *Caſtle hill*, partly upon the main Foſs road oppoſite to this village, a labourer of this place, I was informed, by digging, diſcovered an earthen pot full of coins (but nobody could tell me even of what ſort they were); from which he grew ſuddenly rich, or rather left off labouring

what I have ſaid before on this ſubject, p. 12, I would remark that there is an eaſy communication from the Foſs road, above the town, to

work, and turned banker in the little way; for, it is ſaid that he lends to poor working-men crowns, half-crowns, ſhillings, and even ſixpences, at a certain intereſt *per* week. Whatever may have been his good fortune, I cannot diſcover that he has entruſted any body with the particulars of it; all that the neighbours know is, that from the ſituation of a labourer he now fills that of a banker, with no other viſible means of exiſtence.

One of the oldeſt men in the village told me, he had heard of coins and other things of antiquity being found there, but he had never ſeen any.

Hence, with the Reverend Mr. Anderſon, vicar of St. Nicholas, Leiceſter, who voluntarily accompanied me in this journey, I travelled to Bingham, which inclines about a mile and a quarter from the Foſs road. At Bingham we ſlept that night; and next morning continued our route towards *Willoughby*, VERNOMETUM. The road from Newark to Bingham is all well gravelled; but from Bingham we found it, in many places, very indifferent indeed.

In ſome places the old pack-horſe road is ſtill viſible and uſeful, and in others it is grown over with graſs. When you have travelled a mile or two, the country on the left opens delightfully to view. Belvoir caſtle, as a diſtant object, with extenſive valleys at its baſe, ſits as a moſt noble creſt upon a broad ſhield. About four miles from Bingham, Nottingham, Wollaton-hall, &c. are pleaſing objects, and appear as if they were cloſe at hand.

About Cotgrave ſome very inconſiderate mind has juſt cauſed two horrid pits to be made, right acroſs the Foſs road, at the diſtance from each other only five yards, to get lime-ſtone, as I am told, to mend the roads of a new encloſure. They are ſunk, ſquare and ſteep, to the depth of ſeven or eight feet. A traveller, in the night, could ſcarcely avoid falling into one of them, in which caſe his horſe and ſelf muſt inevitably periſh. I hope, before this caution meets the public eye, the author of ſuch an indiſcreet act will be made ſenſible of the danger which awaits a night-traveller, that ſome preventative may be applied to ſecure thoſe from danger who may have occaſion to paſs that way.

Near a lodge houſe, a little farther on, called *Free-Maſon's Arms*, the following lordſhips join; *Owthorp*, *Kinbolton*, *Cotgrave*, and *Staunton*; *Clipſton* and *Widmerpool* nearly meet them.

Beyond this lodge the Foſs puts on a broad and venerable feature. The autumnal hue on the oaks, the black-thorn, and wild ſhrubs which bound it, raiſed our ideas of its high antiquity.

Willoughby, the VERNOMETUM of the Romans, lies with a bend from the Foſs about a mile, but not now ſo eaſily to be traced as the laſt ſtation; nor are there at Willoughby thoſe diſtinct and indiſputable marks of an intrenchment, or other military works, which are viſible at Eaſt Bridgeford. But here alſo the eminence overlooking the brook, and the Moſaic pavements and coins found there, as mentioned by the induſtrious Stukeley, are evidences ſufficient to eſtabliſh our belief that Willoughby was the *Vernometum* of the Itinerary.

to this military ſtation; and that it might be an appendage or a protection to the Roman way.

RAW-

Between Willougby and Segs-hill is a conſiderable curve in the road, occaſioned, doubtleſs, by the viſible encroachments thereabouts; for, farther on, the Foſs is about 200 yards over, and here not 100. Near Segs-hill it is the broadeſt, conſiderably, between Newark and *High-Croſs*, VENONES.

Near Segs-hill ſix lordſhips meet, viz. *Ragdale*, *Old-Dalby*, *Willoughby*, *Burton*, *Segrave*, and *Thruſſington*. Segs-hill is in the pariſh of Dalby; and it has been imagined by ſome to have been a ſmall ſtation, a thing not uncommon upon the Roman roads, near a grand ſtation, which lay at ſome diſtance from the road.

About a mile from this place you ſee all that is very eminent in the county to much advantage. The Foreſt hills form a grand line, linked to Budden-wood; and, on the other hand, Burrow-hill, in a range of elevated ſtations, is chained, as it were, to Bilſden Copley. The villages below ſit in the happieſt order behind each other, backed by the handſome tower of Melton Mowbray. Theſe are ſeen to the beſt advantage about Thruſſington.

The line of the Foſs, near Radcliffe-on-the-Wreke, is very ſtrait, but uneven; you paſs over ſeveral lofty ſwells of the earth. The Daniſh tumuli in this lordſhip, mentioned by Mr. Carte, are at hand. The ground near is formed on one ſide not unlike the Rawdikes at Leiceſter, but probably not a work of art, as they are.

Between this place and Syſton are ſome extenſive valley-views, diverſified with pleaſing objects; Queneborough's beautiful ſpire is not the leaſt. Hence you paſs over an old bridge, which ſpans the *Wreke*, at the extremity of Syſton meadow. It appears to have wintered many a rough blaſt; and is now decrepid on its worn-out ſtumps, but they are not Roman. In Syſton liberty, through which, the Foſs paſſes, the road is ſtrangely diſmembered. The gripe of violence and power has ſeized it, and left the ſhadow for the ſubſtance; it is narrowed to a ſlender lane, the moſt filthy that ever man paſſed.

Hence we continued our route over the Nether Foſs road, through Thurmaſton, to *Leiceſter*, the RATÆ of the Romans. The other road ſhewn in the engraving continues in a ſtrait line near the Soar, by Burſtall, Belgrave, and Leiceſter abbey, to Danet's Hall, which is much croſſed by other roads near Leiceſter, and diminiſhed in many places by encroachments.

It would be needleſs to attempt to ſhew, and vanity in me to endeavour to prove, in this place, the great antiquity of *Leiceſter*. It is the undoubted and generally acknowledged RATÆ in this route. Roman coins found here are innumerable; fragments of moſaic pavement are dug up frequently, and Roman pottery. Strong foundations of old walls of amazing thickneſs, of foreſt ſtone, lie in all directions and at great depths, in the old part of the town, towards the river. The Rawdikes juſt without the town, Jewry Wall, and the miliary ſtone now placed in Belgrave-gate, are ſtill viſible and moſt inconteſtable noble monuments of its Roman antiquity.

RAWDIKES

I will juſt mention under this ſection. Since I publiſhed my account of this place to ſhew the antiquity of Leiceſter, I got Mr. Everard, who ſurveyed the Ratby encampment, to ſurvey this renowned labour; which, in length, agrees nearly with my old friend Mr. Lee's account in a letter to Dr. Stukeley, publiſhed in Mr. Nichols's Collections; but it differs in that particular from that of Mr. Bickerſtaff's, p. 13. Mr. Lee makes the length 634 yards, Mr. Everard 629 yards, 2 feet. This admeaſurement includes the race-paſſage, and that part

The Foſs from the back of Danet's Hall, on to Redhouſe, on the Narborough road, is now but little frequented, and is much diſmembered, ſcarcely a trace of it in ſome places being left. The road from and to the ſtation was probably over the old river, near Braunſton gate; I have marked that paſſage in the plan.

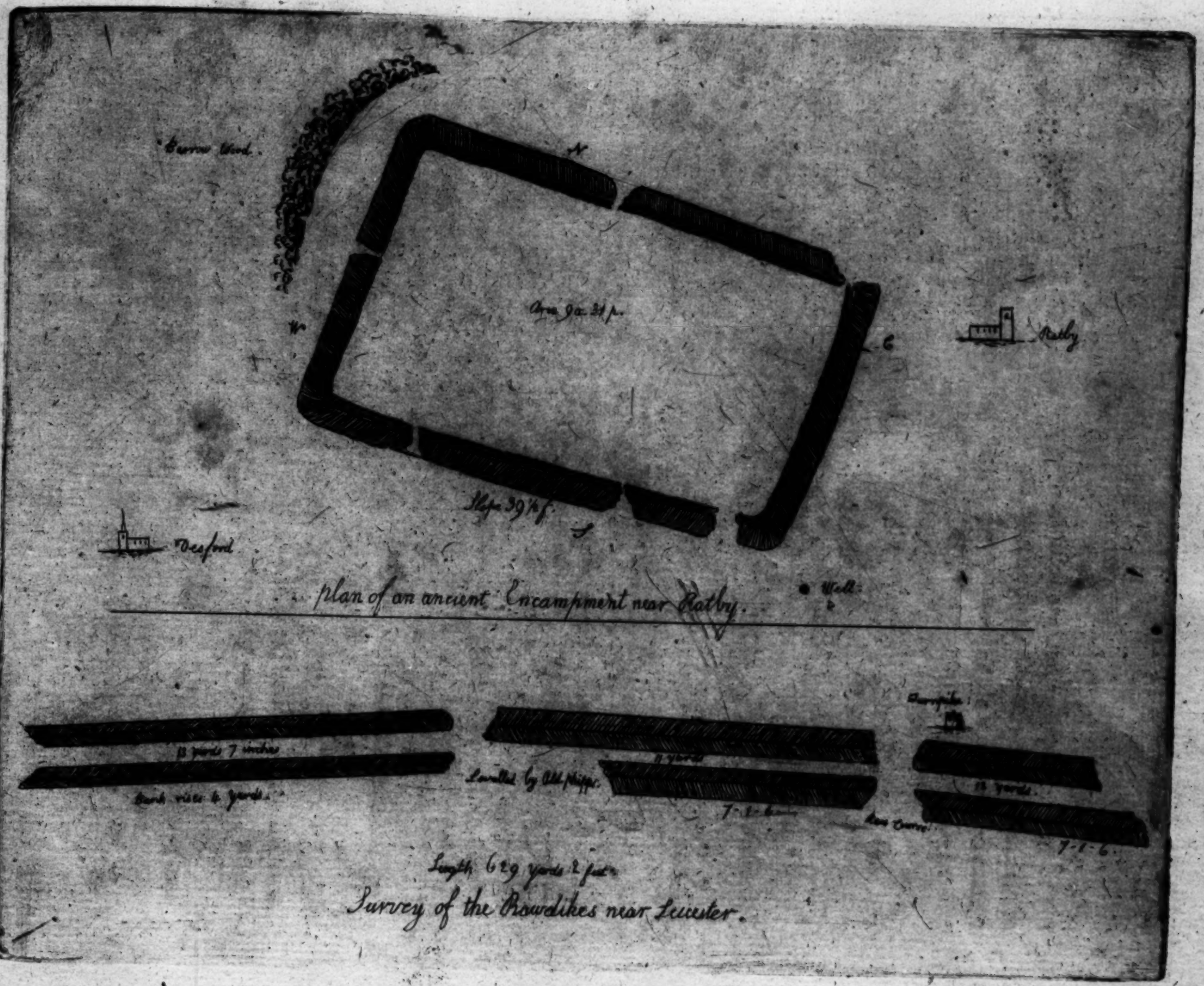
The Foſs, from its junction at Redhouſe, about a mile from Leiceſter, nearly to Enderby, is ſpacious except in one place, a little beyond the turnpike, on the right: there it has been lately much diminiſhed, and is ſhamefully narrow. Beyond Enderby alſo, in ſome places, it has been materially diminiſhed by former encroachments, which give it ſome awkward curves. Beyond Narborough, where there is a viſible bend, it is miry, and in ſome places narrow. Near Langham bridges, which croſs the Soar, Croſt hill looks boldly. Theſe bridges, as they are called, or rather bridge, are an object of ſome note. They are built over a ſwampy part of the Foſs, and extend over two acres of ground. They, for their ſimplicity, muſt be regarded as the moſt antient work of labour, excepting the Foſs itſelf between Newark and High Croſs. The arches are built of foreſt ſtone, without much deſign but that of durability. They are narrow, and without a fence or wall on either ſide; and in ſome places they ſo reſemble the rock itſelf, peeping through the moſs and ruſhes, joined with ſuch admirable mortar, exhibiting through age the ſame feature as the ſtone, that you are at a loſs to know whether they be not ſome apertures in a rock, naturally favourable to the paſſage of the ſtream.

Beyond this bridge, toward Sutton, the Foſs puts on its wonted appearance, cloathed with its natural ornaments, the bramble, the thorn, and the oak; but it is not ſo ſpacious as at Segs-hill and Willoughby.

Beyond Sutton, at a place called *Soar-Mill* (the firſt mill upon the river), it is almoſt choaked up; and, farther on, it is almoſt loſt with encloſures, particularly about Froleſworth and Sharnford, and ſo on to

High Croſs, which marked the ſite of the Roman VENONES, afterwards the city of CLEYCESTER, but which is now itſelf a ruin, ſtricken by lightning the latter end of the ſummer of 1791.

levelled



Plan of an ancient Encampment near Ratby.

Length 629 yards 2 feet.

Survey of the Rowdikes near Leicester.

G.R. III.
BRITISH MUSEUM

levelled by alderman Phipps, who rented this part of St Mary's field, ſome years ſince. Poor Mr. Lee, I remember, was much hurt at the alderman's lack of antiquarian taſte, and, by the aid of Mr. alderman Ludlam, diſſuaded him from a farther proſecution of his deſtructive ſcheme.

RACE-GROUND.

A portion of St. Mary's field, which nearly adjoins the town, was ſet apart for the annual ſport of racing about fifty years ſince. Before that time the races were held in the abbey-meadow, where the horſes ran ſometimes up to the knees in water; and on this they are not much better. They croſs turnpike roads four times; and, by the ſhameful perverſeneſs of farmers in carting over it, it is, in wet ſeaſons, almoſt up to the belly in mire, in ſome places.

On this race-ground have been two extraordinary and memorable days of ſport. The firſt was in the year 1745, between a horſe named *Rib* and another named *Bucephalus*; the former won at three heats with much difficulty; it was remarked by the ſpectators, that as they ſtarted each heat ſo they came in; the conflict was terrible.

The other was in the year 1783, between three horſes out of five which ſtarted, viz. the duke of Grafton's *Duſter*, Mr. Edward's *Marcus*, and Mr. Naper's *Gameſter*. *Gameſter* won the firſt heat, *Duſter* the ſecond, *Marcus* the third, and *Duſter* the fourth. The conteſt was ſo near and doubtful, almoſt every heat, that violent quarrels and hard blows enſued by the ſpectators reſpecting the ſteward's deciſion. However, the heats in general were ſo violently conteſted, and ſo near run, that few agreed, who were near the winning-poſt, which was the winning horſe each heat. This, however, is certain, that the poor animals could ſcarcely move from the race-ground after the race was over.

This

This extraordinary race I have ſhewn in the annexed plate. It repreſents the three paſſing the diſtance poſt, nearly run dead, the fourth heat, when it required great exertions in the riders to keep them on their legs.



High Cross.

This deſpicable ſubſtitute for that repreſented in plate p. 62, was made of one of its pillars. That croſs I have mentioned in p. 92; it was erected on the ſite of one which was then deſtroyed. Moſt probably *it* ſtood in the center of the four croſs ways; the High ſtreet, the High-croſs-ſtreet, Shambles-lane, now altered to Shambles ſtreet, and that leading to North-gate-ſtreet. That which was an ornament to Leiceſter ſtood a little diſtance from the croſs roads Northwardly, and extended from the opening where the pillar now ſtands, partly over the mid-way, which juſt left room for carriages to paſs; from which extended the ſign of the *Horſe-and-trumpet*, a large inn, now occupied as a private houſe by Mr. Bradley, grocer. The deſtruction of

of this croſs was lamented much by ſome. It was ſold in portions, in 1773, for a few pounds, after ſtanding about 196 years, by the ſame contracted minds, and nearly at the ſame time, which left for the ſake of a few pounds, in the ſale of old walls, the entrances through the gateways of this town ſuch diſgraceful paſſages.

In my Leiceſterſhire Excurſions I have inſerted a curious article which in ſome meaſure reſpects the High croſs, and alſo St. Mary's church, the annual riding of the Ratby men to Leiceſter, which has been a cuſtom for upwards of 400 years, and is ſtill continued in ſome degree *(a)*.

FREE

(a) The tradition is as follows. "There is in the pariſh of Ratby a meadow adjoining the road from Market Boſworth to Leiceſter. Before the fields were incloſed, this meadow belonged to ſeveral occupiers of land in the pariſh of Ratby. The cuſtom was, to mow their ſeveral allotments on a certain day, called "the meadow-mowing," as was the cuſtom in ſeveral parts of the county, particularly at Nelſton, Desford, Stanton under Bardon, &c. When the labour of the day was over, the remaining part was ſpent in wreſtlings, footballs, cudgel-playing, and other athletic exerciſes; and the evening was ſpent with muſic and dancing on a ſmall eminence in one part of the meadow. It happened in the latter part of the reign of Edward III. or beginning of the reign of Richard II. that John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaſter, and earl of Leiceſter, fourth ſon of Edward III. paſſed by the meadow, on his way to Leiceſter, where he then kept his court, attended by only one ſervant, on the day of the meadow-mowing. Obſerving mirth and feſtivity, he alighted from his horſe, and aſked the cauſe of their diverſion. They told his Grace, they had been mowing the meadow, according to annual cuſtom, which was called *Rams-dale*. Having joined with them in their diverſions, he was ſo well pleaſed with their innocent paſtimes, that, when he took his leave, he told them if they would meet him at Leiceſter, at ſuch a time and place, which he appointed, he would give to each of them an ewe to their ram, alſo a wether, whoſe graſſy fleece ſhould annually, when ſold, make them all a ſplendid repaſt. There was a conſultation immediately held; ſome ſaid it was only a joke; others ſaid they were determined to know the truth of the matter. Accordingly about fifteen perſons ſet out for Leiceſter, and went to the appointed place, where they found his Grace, who informed them, if they would keep the following articles, he would give to each of them a piece or parcel of land, ſituated in a meadow in the pariſh of Enderby, in the ſaid county of Leiceſter, adjoining the river Soar, and near unto an antient burying ground, called St. John's church-yard, containing by meaſure half an acre, which was to be called *The Ewes*, for each man's private uſe; alſo another ſmall piece for every perſon, to be called *The Boots*, about five yards wide, and 50 or 60 yards long; and he would likewiſe give to them a piece or parcel of land for their general uſe, to be called *The Wether*, containing about 2 acres, adjoining the river Soar, which, it is ſaid, in a rainy ſeaſon "waſhes the wether's breech;" the graſs-crop to be

ſold

Free School.

The Rev. Mr. Carte has been ſomewhat particular in his MS. reſpecting this place. He ſays,

"The moſt antient mention that I have met with of any ſchool in Leiceſter is in a deed without date, whereby Robert Fitz-John, of Whitwick, granted to Adam le Sage, of Torp, formerly rector of the ſchools in Leiceſter, and to his heirs or aſſigns, certain lands in the field of Rotebi; to which were witneſſes Sir Peter ſon of Roger, John ſon of the ſame, knights, John de Aneſti, John de Lumchamp, William Bate of Groby, &c. Q. whether the firſt of theſe witneſſes be not the ſame with Peter ſon of Roger, who was the firſt mayor of Leiceſter in 1246, and ſo continued till 1256 incluſively?

The next mention that I find made of a ſchool here is, that a biſhop of Carliſle had given land for the maintaining a free-ſchool in the pariſh of St. Margaret; this biſhop I take to have been John Penny, who was abbot of Leiceſter, and afterwards biſhop of Carliſle, and lies buried in St. Margaret's church. This land, it is ſaid, Mr. John Beaumont about 1541 (at which time he was re-

ſold annually on Whit-monday, at Enderby, to the beſt bidder, which of late years amounts to 4*l.* or upwards, to defray the expences of an annual feaſt on Whit-monday.

Articles. That there ſhall be two perſons choſen annually, by a majority, to be called caterers, who ſhall on every Whit-monday go to Leiceſter, to what inn they ſhall think proper, where a calf's head ſhall be provided for their breakfaſt; and when the bones are picked clean, they are to be put into a diſh, and ſerved up with the dinner. Likewiſe the innkeeper is to provide two large rich pies, for the caterers to take home, that their families may partake of ſome of their feſtivity. Likewiſe, there ſhall be provided for every perſon a ſhort ſilk lace, tagged at both ends with ſilver, which, when ſo equipt, they ſhall all proceed to Enderby, and ſell the graſs of *The Wether* to the beſt bidder; thence they ſhall go to the meadow, and all diſmount, and each perſon ſhall take a ſmall piece of the graſs from the before-mentioned *Wether*, and tie it round with their tagged lace, and wear it in their hats, and ride in proceſſion to the High-croſs in Leiceſter, and there throw them among the populace; thence proceed to their inn, and go in proceſſion to St. Mary's church, where a ſermon ſhall be preached for the benefit of an hoſpital founded by Henry earl of Lancaſter. When ſervice is over, a deed ſhall be read over by the clergyman concerning the above gift, and the church ſhall be ſtuck with flowers. When the ceremony is over, they are to return to their inn to dinner, and cloſe the day with mirth and feſtivity."

corder

corder and a commiſſioner) ſold away, but by what authority doth not appear. Certain it is, the corporation was diſſatisfied with what he had done; and therefore, March 11, 6 Edw. VI. at a common hall they reſolved to endeavour the recovery of it; and for that and ſome other purpoſes ſent Mr. Robert Boughton, vicar of St. Martin's, to London, whoſe charges were borne half by the town, and half by the pariſh of St. Margaret: but what progreſs he made in the matter I find not; only the event ſhews that this attempt proved abortive, and it is poſſible that the death of king Edward VI. might occaſion them to deſiſt from all proſecution of the matter.

The original of the free-ſchool is, by all perſons whom I have diſcourſed with about it, computed to have been in 1573; which is an error in itſelf, and an occaſion of other errors; and therefore I ſhall deliver my opinion, and then mention ſome of the circumſtances on which it is founded.

My opinion is, that Thomas Wigſton, prebendary of the church of Newark, brother of the famous William Wigſton, founded the ſchool in the place where the ſchool-houſe now ſtands, and that he endowed it with lands, which, together with the guardianſhip or overſight of the ſchool, he entruſted with the maſter and confrater of his brother's hoſpital, charging them to pay 10l. a year to the maſter of the ſchool; and thus it continued till the augmentation and new-eſtabliſhing of it about 1573. The circumſtances upon which my opinion is grounded are as follow: 1. Leland aſſerts that Thomas Wigſton made the free-ſchool in Leiceſter. 2. John Pott, ſchool-maſter of Leiceſter, is ſaid to be one of the fugitives that were gone beyond ſea, contrary to the ſtatute, 13 Eliz. 3. I have ſeen, among other papers concerning the new hoſpital, a rental of lands in 1561 and 1562, out of which the ſchool-maſter is paid. 4. It was agreed at a common hall, June 30, 1564, that one of the bells of St. Peter's church ſhould be ſold, to repair the ſchool-houſe; all which was before the ſuppoſed foundation of the ſchool, and confirms what I have ſuggeſted; and hence we learn how it comes to paſs that the maſter and confrater of Wigſton's hoſpital are ſo much concerned in the viſitation and government of the ſchool, although queen Elizabeth, in her grant, takes no notice of them, but only of the Mayor, &c. Hence alſo we may obſerve how erroneouſly the 20l. a year, which is paid by the hoſpital to the ſchool-maſter, is all of it called the earl of Huntingdon's gift, whereas the earl by his

deed gave only a rent-charge of 10l. a year, whereas the other 10l. ariſes from the lands entruſted to the hoſpital for maintenance of the ſchool, &c.

April 7, 15 Eliz. the queen in conſideration of 35l. having granted to the mayor and co-burgeſſes of Leiceſter the materials of the decayed church of St. Peter; they according to their obligation ſet about building a ſchool-houſe anew, which I ſuppoſe was on the ſame ground as the former, becauſe I find no account of the purchaſe of the ſite of it, and finiſhed it the next year; and at the ſame time they erected a new houſe at the North end of the ſchool-houſe for the head ſchool-maſter to dwell in, and thereto laid all the backſide that lately was in the occupation of Johnſon Maſon, reſerving to themſelves the rent of 20s. a year. For defraying theſe and ſome other charges, they laid themſelves, the twenty-four at 2s. and the forty-eight at 1s. each, May 7, 16 Eliz.

In 1604, the Rev. Thomas Haynes, born at Thruſſington, in this county, gave 400l. to be beſtowed in buying lands, or houſes, in or near Leiceſter, of the yearly rent of 24l. for ever, for the maintenance of a ſchool-maſter in Thurcaſton, or ſome town near thereunto, to teach ten poor children; and for the maintenance of two poor ſcholars in Lincoln College, to come from the free-ſchool at Leiceſter; or, in default of that, from the Free-ſchool at Melton; the ſchool-maſter to have 12l. yearly, and the ſcholars 6l. (*a*)

There appears to me ſomething in the conſtitution of this ſchool irregular, or not well aſcertained. From the corporation books I have ſelected the time, and by whom, moſt of the maſters and uſhers were appointed; in which I diſcover that the maſter of Wigſton's hoſpital has had the power of recommending, if not the appointment, of them, although this right is generally exerciſed by the mayor and ſenior aldermen, i. e. by thoſe who have been mayors. To thoſe who know that the founder of Wigſton's hoſpital was a principal founder alſo of this ſchool, it will not appear ſtrange that the maſter of that hoſ-

(*a*) Athenæ Oxonienſes, vol. II. p. 42; copied from Mr. Topp's liſt of mayors.

pital

pital ſhould have been, originally, intruſted with ſome ſort of ſuperintending of this ſchool. The ſenior aldermen, of a trading town like Leiceſter, may be men of integrity and diſcretion; but they cannot be ſuppoſed to inherit a ſufficient ſhare of claſſical learning to judge of the reſpective abilities of each candidate, at a vacancy, who deſires to become the maſter of this ſchool. The uſhers have been ſometimes choſen by a common hall. As I cannot conceive that the bare mention of the names of moſt of the maſters and uſhers would be generally entertaining, I here give the reader a few particular inſtances of the appointment, &c. of teachers. This ſchool originally was not improperly, as it is now, divided into ſeparate ſchools; but the maſter, as at Weſtminſter, St. Paul's, and the Charter-Houſe, in London, had the ſuperintendence of the whole. In Leiceſter, ſomehow, the maſter and uſhers, or each maſter is almoſt now, alas! without ſcholars. I remember it a noble ſeat of learning, an honour to the town, and moſt eminent for its ſcholars.

"1627, Mr. Angel, maſter. He was offered 20l. in 1636, if he would reſign.

"1648, Mr. Coleman, under-uſher, was diſcharged the ſchool by the *mayor and juſtices*, after being 20 years under-uſher.

"1649, Mr. Millis was propoſed for maſter by Mr. Lee, who afterwards wrote to Mr. Bahemeny, that his brother might ſupply his place.

"1651, Mr. Wood, maſter, from Croydon. Agreed at a *common hall*, that if Mr. Wood would come to the Free-ſchool, and be approved by the *mayor and viſitors*, he ſhould have the ſchool (the maſter and confrater of Wigſton's hoſpital were always viſitors, in my time, when at this ſchool.)—Joſeph Bickland, under-uſher, it appears, was made by the maſter of the hoſpital; and it was aſſerted by him "that it is the undoubted power of his place to preſent a ſchool-maſter."

"1662, Mr. David Thomas, head maſter, *recommended* by Mr. Meredith, warden of All Souls, and maſter of the hoſpital.

"1667, Mr. Nathaniel Ball, maſter, recommended by Dr. Buſby, at the *mayor's* requeſt.

"1671, Mr. Wells invited by the mayor and ſeniors to take the ſchool.

"William Davy, under-uſher, to hold during pleaſure of the *mayor and aldermen who have been mayors.*

"1678, Mr. William Thomas, maſter, elected by a common hall.

"1684, Mr. Keen, uſher, by the *Twenty-four.*

"1689, Mr. Kilby, head-uſher, at a common hall."

Since about the year 1714, the maſter and uſhers have been elected by the mayor and ſenior aldermen; but no ſufficient reaſon appears to me for the exerciſe of this power It *may* be juſt.

I find a charge in the records of the Corporation, A.D. 1618, thus: "Paid 9th Dec. to watchmen, for watching the ſchool when the ſcholars were ſo unruly as to ſhut out their maſter, 4s. 3d."

This ſchool, and the ſchool-houſe which ſtands at the North end of the building, were erected 16 Eliz. The houſe was built for the reſidence of the head-maſter, towards the building of which, the corporation, as individuals, were the principal contributors.

The ſchool ſhould be viſited, as I obſerved before, by the maſter and confrater of Wigſton's hoſpital. Mr. Jackſon, the laſt maſter who reſided in Leiceſter, was a punctual attendant at the ſtated periods, accompanied, generally, by the clergy of the reſpective pariſh-churches, and the mayor of the town, &c. But now the maſterſhip of the hoſpital having become an office of profit merely to the poſſeſſor, may, probably, be one cauſe of the preſent deplorable ſtate of the ſchool.

This

This building is a rugged pile of foreſt-ſtone, interſperſed with ſome pieces of wrought free-ſtone, lying in all directions; it is covered with ſlate. It is but an ordinary building. On it are the arms of England, and a table of the benefactors, as follow:

		£.	s.	d.
Queen Elizabeth gave	*per ann.*	10	0	0
Henry Earl of Huntingdon		20	0	0
Sir William Wigſton	-	10	0	0
Sir Ralph Rawlett	-	3	6	8
Mr. William Norrice	-	3	6	8
Mr. James Ellis, ſenr.	-	1	6	8
Mr. James Ellis, junr.		3	0	0
Mr. John Stanly	-	2	0	0
Mr. Thomas Gilbert	-	5	0	0
Mrs. Dorothy Baker	-	1	0	0
Mr. Robert Heyrick	-	0	13	4
Mr. Thomas Clarke	-	1	0	0
Mr. Margaret Hobby	-	0	12	0
Mr. Thomas Haine	-	6	0	0
	£	67	5	4
Mr. Tobias Heyrick (not on the tablet)		0	6	8
		67	12	0

SHAMBLES, or GREEN-COAT SCHOOL.

The place, now occupied by the charity-boys belonging to the ſchool founded by Alderman Gabriel Newton, was originally built in 1682, at the expence of 55l. for the uſe of the town butchers on the week-day markets; it was but a ſhort time uſed for that purpoſe, and

was

was a building below deſcription; the other ſhambles which ſtood, when I was a ſchool-boy, in the market-place, was a regular-formed and handſome building, if my idea of it fail not. It was taken down at the erection of the exchange in 1746.

The *Green-coat ſchool* is ſituate near St. Nicholas church, facing Jewry-wall, and was fitted up for that purpoſe in 1785. The boys, 35 in number, are cloathed in green, with red collars on their coats, a black cap (in the alderman's time green), and are allowed a halfpenny roll for breakfaſt, and apprenticed with 5l. They are taught reading, writing, arithmetic, and pſalmody. They have two maſters, one at a ſalary of 30l. and the other 10l. per annum; the latter teaches them to ſing, at ſtated times, and attends them to church with the other maſter, on Sundays, Wedneſdays, and Fridays. The corporation are truſtees. See p. 187.

St. Mary's School.

This building, which ſtands near the church, was built by voluntary ſubſcription in the year 1785, principally by the inhabitants and congregation at that church; towards which, the preacher, the Rev. Mr. Robinſon, may be juſtly ſaid to have done much. It educates 45 boys, and 35 girls, not only in reading, &c. but in religious duties, and the girls, moreover, in habits of induſtry. The children are cloathed in light brown, kept exceedingly orderly and clean, and are frequently attended, or rather ſuperintended, by their benefactors. A maſter and miſtreſs reſide. The ſalary of the former is 39l. and the latter 15l. a year. It coſt building 600l.

St. Martin's School.

This alſo is a ſchool for the education of the children of the poor, belonging to the pariſh, built and ſupported by voluntary ſubſcription.

The

The building, which is doubtleſs one of the prettieſt ornaments, as a public edifice, in the town, was erected in the year 1791, at the expence of 950l. It educates thirty-five boys, and thirty girls. It ſtands in Friar-lane, on a healthful ſpot. Here reſide a maſter and a miſtreſs, in genteel apartments, the former on a ſalary of 30l. and the latter 20l. a year. The former is indulged by the committee to educate, with his boys, ſix ſcholars for his better maintenance, who are not upon the eſtabliſhment. An annual ſermon is preached, reſpectively, for the benefit of St. Mary's and St. Martin's ſchools. At preſent they are each without a permanency. It is devoutly to be wiſhed.

The members of the Preſbyterian meeting, it is ſaid, have it in deſign to erect a ſchool-houſe for their charity-children, who are ſupported on the ſame noble principles of religious philanthropy.

Town Hall,

Which ſtands nearly adjoining St. Martin's church, was, before the Reformation, the Corpus Chriſti guild. This place, in magnitude, is conſiderable; but as a building it is in competition only with a ſpacious barn, erected exactly upon the ſame principle. Here are held the aſſize and ſeſſions for the town, the corporate aſſemblies, feaſts, &c. and the election of members to ſerve in parliament.

At the court end are the arms of England, done in the time of Elizabeth, and ſeveral good portraits of town-worthies, viz. the earl of Huntingdon (ſee p. 176), Sir Thomas White (ſee p. 88), Mr. Wigley (ſee p. 189), and Mr. Darker (ſee p. 195) (*a*).

The

(*a*) The earl of Huntingdon's picture, by the corporation books, coſt 1l. 13s. in 1624: Mr. Wigley's was painted by Highmore, and given by Edward Hartop Wigley, Eſq. Mr. Darker's was given by his ſon-in-law Edward Loveden Loveden, Eſq. Sir Thomas White's picture has the following inſcribed thereon:

"Quum

The council-parlour, which forms an angle from the court end of the hall, contains a curious old carved chimney piece, alſo an antient mace-caſe, and ſome good glaſs-painting in the windows. Here are alſo the arms of Sir Thomas White, and an old portrait or two, one of which is evidently of the Heyrick family. On it

" His picture, whom you here ſee,
When he is dead and rotten,
By this ſhall he remember'd be,
When he ſhall be forgotten."

Here are framed repreſentations of the corporation ſeals, viz. " SIGILLVM COMMUNITATIS: BURGI LEICESTRIE," The ſeal for deeds, conveyances, &c.

In the corporation accompts is an entrance for building the parlour in 1637; the coſt 220l. 8s. 5d. The painting on glaſs, in the windows, indicate it to be of an older date: the glaſs-painting was probably a transfer: one light repreſents H. R. with a crown over the letters; another has the Prince of Wales's arms and motto. September and June are repreſented, alſo; and other devices, as the ſun, a large cinquefoil, &c. &c.

Before the purchaſe of the preſent Town-hall by the corporation, their place of meeting, or public hall, was in Blue Boar-lane, called formerly Mayor's Hall-lane. This old hall, at the ſiege of Leiceſter,

" Quum viginti quatuor urbes hujus regni Angliæ ſuis ditâſſet, opibus et annis et honore plenus obiit Feb. Anno Domini 1566.

" Cernitur hic Thomas Whitus ſub imagine pictâ
Cernitur hac vitâ melius ſub imagine verâ,
Et pater et prætor Londini miles in illo;
Providus Oxoniæ fautor, fundator in illâ;
Briſtolii decus eximium; laus prima Redingæ;
Gloria Tunbrigiæ: tibi cauſa, Coventria famæ
Urbis honos, orbis prudentia, gemma ſenectæ."

" Thomas White, miles, Aldermanus civitatis Londini,
Fundator Collegii Sancti Johannis Baptiſtæ, et Aulæ Gloceſtrenſis Oxoniæ."

in

in 1645 was a ſtore-room for powder and ball, and was blown up by the king's forces at the ſtorming of the town.

In the Town-hall yard, which is ſmall and ſquare, is an excellent kitchen for cooking the good things on feaſting days, particularly the mayor's feaſt, held in honour of the dedication of St. Martin's church; on which occaſion there is a ſermon preached by the vicar of the pariſh, who is always conſidered the mayor's chaplain. He admoniſhes his hearers to abſtain from exceſs, on religious feſtivals; but very few of the devourers of fleſh and wine attend divine ſervice on that day, conſequently not many benefit by the diſcourſe. It is generally a jolly day. Towards the evening, chearfulneſs and joy ſit pleaſantly on every countenance; the great and the ſmall happily forget diſtinctions, while Bacchus diſplays his ſmiling reign; but this, like other paſſing pleaſures, ſometimes ends unpleaſantly: feſtive exceſs operates differently on different bodies; ſome it puts to ſilent reſt; others it makes wild and frantic: ſome tempers become ſour and crabbed; the coward it makes brave and valiant; and the meek and lowly, proud and tyrannical; others gay and happy. When ſuch an heterogeneous group are promiſcuouſly blended in the company of each other, who can wonder at the irregularities which ſometimes cloſe a mayor's feaſt?

Town Library.

It appears by a book, in this library, that the building was erected in 1633, at the ſole expence of the corporation, and at the requeſt of the then biſhop of Lincoln. The building, like the Town-hall which adjoins it, is ſpacious but inelegant.

Thomas Hayne, ſon of Robert Hayne, of Thruſſington, was the principal benefactor of books. By his will he gave all his library, except ſome few books which he gave to the library of Weſtminſter (*a*).

(*a*) Thomas Hayne was matriculated as a member of Lincoln College in Michaelmas Term 1599, and in that of his age 17, and took a degree in Arts in 1604.

This library contains nearly 1000 books, principally in Latin. The MSS. are five, viz. *Biblia Sacra, Latinè, Novum Teſtamentum, Græcè*; one on ſacred ſubjects; *Pſalmi Davidis*; and a Latin Bible. One of the books is a New Teſtament tranſlated into the Indian language, Cambridge, 1671. And another, a valuable edition of *Erpenius' Arabic Grammar*. But the moſt curious thing eſteemed here is an *Hebrew book*, in Syriac characters, on paper of an extraordinary kind, bordered with gold (*a*). This book is ſhewn to every viſitor, by the librarian, as a curious relic.

The Conduit,

Which ſtands in the Market-place, is an octagon heavy building, intended as an ornamental ſkreen to cover a large leaden ciſtern. It was erected in 1612, rebuilt in 1709.

The conduit water is uſed for all choice purpoſes, particularly for tea: it is much eſteemed for its purity of flavour by the ladies. It is drawn from a ſpring, about three quarters of a mile from this building, in St. Margaret's Field; which ſpring is covered with a ſtone building, which ſecures it from injury and filth.

Some few years ſince, the inhabitants in the Market-place, and ſtreets adjacent, by ſubſcription, made a large reſervoir near the conduit, to preſerve the waſte or overflowing water, to be ready in caſe of an accident by fire.

The Exchange, at Leicester,

Was built in the year 1747, to ſerve the purpoſes of the ſhambles and gainſborough; the former was a building of conſiderable orna-

(*a*) The common people have a tradition that it was written by Chriſt or ſome of his Apoſtles. In conſequence, the leaves have been filched away by piecemeal. It is probable that, in a few years, nothing will remain of it but the covers.

ment

ment to the town; the latter was a place ſet apart for the adminiſtration of juſtice.

The upper rooms of the Exchange are ſtill uſed by the magiſtrates on certain days; but the lower room was only a ſhort time uſed by the butchers: it is now almoſt uſeleſs. It ſtands in the Market-place, and occupies a large portion of that ground which is now much wanted. By ſome it is conſidered as a great nuiſance, and may probably, in conſequence, in theſe improving and reforming days, be ſhortly removed or deſtroyed.

The Market-Place

Is faſhioned as it were by chance, and forms an aukward L. Taking in what has been lately named, by the inhabitants, *Cheapſide*, inſtead of *Conduit-ſtreet*, it may be ſaid to form an aukward T.

This place is rather ſmall for the abundance of buſineſs done there on a market-day. This market abounds with every ſpecies of good living: it is, for an inland town, remarkably well ſerved with fiſh: the butchery is the delight of ſtrangers. Here have been ſhewn, lately, many extraordinary fine ſheep from the feed of the moſt capital graziers and breeders in the neighbourhood; ſuch as have been noticed in all the public prints of the day.

The buildings, which encloſe the market-place, have, within theſe forty years, been much improved; the low ſkulking ſheds have been removed, and capital dwellings have been raiſed up in their room, ornamental, and calculated for extenſive buſineſſes.

The Assembly-Room,

Situate on the Coal-Hill, is a building of private property. It is uſed on moſt public occaſions, for concerts, &c. and as a play-houſe. Under part of it is a machine for weighing coals, &c.

Fairs.

The Fairs in Leiceſter are upon a large ſcale, particularly in the articles of cheeſe, ſheep, and cattle. Smithfield market, on its higheſt days, bears no ſort of proportion to the beaſts ſhewn in Leiceſter at two or three fairs in a year. The ſum of money returned at Michaelmas fair, for the various articles brought thither, if the total could be aſcertained and ſet forth, I doubt not would appear incredible.

The fairs of moſt note are called *May-fair*, *Midſummer-fair*, *Michaelmas-fair*, and *Chriſtmas-fair*. At *Palm-fair*, and *Low-fair*, there are very conſiderable ſhows of cattle; even the Spring markets, in Leiceſter, for beaſts, &c. have the appearance of fairs of magnitude. Perhaps the principal reaſon that can be aſſigned for the great extenſion of the markets and fairs, for live ſtock, in this place, is, that Leiceſter is ſurrounded by a greater portion of fine grazing land than any other place in England: more encloſures have taken place in Leiceſterſhire and its neighbourhood, within theſe fifty years, than within the like quantity of ground, and in the ſame ſpace of time, that I know of. May the delightful grazing farms which now adorn this county, and which give it an honourable diſtinction, long enjoy thoſe marks of pre-eminence, which it has obtained in the writings and obſervations of eminent men in agricultural purſuits!

Prisons.

The county-gaol, without, looks like what it ſhould be; it has a priſon-like appearance. It is repreſented at page 312. This gaol was built by a county-rate, in the year 1791, by Mr. George Moneypenny, architect; it ſhews his knowleege of grand deſign, bordering on the terrific. He is a young man, and may have introduced ſome things objectionable. In the elevation, the Cap of Liberty, the Roman Faſces, and his own name, ſo large and conſpicuous on the front, have

have been ſubjects of animadverſion. The following appeared in the *Leiceſter Journal* the week after the Cap of Liberty was ſeen on the front of the priſon.

"Impromptu on ſeeing the Cap of Liberty
on the new building of the gaol.

"It needs no ſymbol ſure to tell,
No tale from claſſic lore,
That he who enters here to dwell,
Leaves freedom at the door."

I know not how conſiſtent it may be with Mr. Howard's plan within. I can only obſerve, that it would be a much more happy and commendable taſk to be engaged in, to endeavour to prevent crimes, than deviſe means to puniſh the perpetrators of them. This gaol coſt the county 6000l. Within is a chapel. The chaplain enjoys a ſalary of 35l. a year.

The Town Gaol

Is a deſpicable place at preſent; but it is about to be rebuilt. It ſtands in the North-gate-ſtreet, below the county gaol. This priſon is beneath deſcription: that about to occupy its place is deſigned by Mr. Johnſon, an eminent architect in London, eldeſt ſon of John Johnſon, Eſq. a banker, (in the firm of Sir Herbert Mackworth) who is a native of this town. The intended front is an agreeable contraſt to the county priſon.

The *County* and *Town Bridewells* are places which have proper accommodations for the unfortunate inhabitants which occupy them; but their externals have neither the appearance of priſons, nor eligible dwellings; the former is ſituate in Blue-Boar-lane, the latter adjoins the Town-gaol.

Dissenting Religious Houses.

The Great Meeting, or the building ſet apart for the worſhip of the Preſbyterians, was built in 1708. It forms a ſquare, nearly in the centre of the meeting-houſe yard, built of brick, and is by far the largeſt, including every other denomination, in the town. The congregation are genteel and numerous: ſeveral of the firſt families of the town are of this ſect. The preſent paſtor is the Rev. Mr. Worthington, an elderly gentleman, much reſpected. Here the congregation have been long happy in a choir of ſingers of taſte and judgement. This place has a burial-ground.

Millstone-Lane Meeting-House, or that under the denomination of Mr. Weſley's people, was lately built; towards the expence of which, the inhabitants of the town in general were ſolicited. This alſo is a ſquare building; the front of brick, ornamented with ſtone. The building, occupied before by theſe people, ſtood on the ſame ſite, and was uſed originally by ſtrolling players: many will, doubtleſs, ſay, its change is for the better. This congregation is numerous, and ſeemingly ſincere. On the Sabbath, many, I perceive, go to their place of worſhip early and frequent. I travelled from London to Northampton, with four miniſters of this ſect, in Auguſt laſt, 1792. I was exceedingly happy to find, by their converſation, that they were likely to inculcate, by their teaching, a due reverence for the religion and government of this happy kingdom; while, from an oppoſite conduct in another ſtate, evils had ſucceeded of the moſt ſanguinary nature, which had ſeparated the deareſt intereſts, baniſhed peace by the deſtruction of religion, and thoſe virtues which adorn human nature.

The Quakers Meeting-House, rather obſcurely ſituated, near the North-gate, is a ſmall, but neat, place of worſhip. The Quakers

kers in Leiceſter, and the neighbourhood, are not numerous, although the founder of this ſect, George Fox, began his career in this county. A burial-ground is attached to this place. I think the Quakers here retain more of the original ſimplicity of dreſs and manners than in any other place I have ſeen (*a*).

BAPTIST MEETING-HOUSES.—Here are two under the denomination of *Baptiſts*. Of their diſtinction I know but little. One is ſituate in Friar-lane, and the other in Harvy-lane. The former is ſerved by a Mr. Deacon; and the latter, I am told, has beenby a declaimer againſt the Pope, and the friends of an unfortunate Royal Sufferer. His pious prayers for the ſucceſs of the French arms, doubtleſs, availed much. Wonders will never ceaſe. Chriſtian teachers advocates for the cauſe of Infidelity!

Theſe buildings are modern-built, of brick; are roomy, and fitted up with pews neatly. That in Friar-lane has a reſpectable appearance without; but it ſtands in a yard ſcreened by buildings. They have each a burial-ground.

The CATHOLIC CHAPEL is the leaſt of all the diſſenting places of worſhip in Leiceſter. It is only a room of a houſe, in a lane, near the Town-gaol, ſerved by a gentleman of education and ſuavity of manners; but he makes no proſelytes, I believe not a family or individual have been added to this ſmall congregation in the ſpace of fifty years. I rather think ſeveral have ſeceded in that ſpace of time.

The NEW WALK,

By ſome called *The Queen's Walk* without the appearance of a ſlight reaſon, was made about ſeven years ſince by a ſpirited ſubſcription. The Corporation, at the interceſſion of ſome gentlemen, friends to improvement, gave the land, by an order of Hall, April

(*a*) Many of the young females, followers of the Rev. Mr. Robinſon, at St. Mary's church, are imitators of the dreſs, if not of the primitiveneſs and ſimplicity, of the Quakers.

29th,

29th, 1785. Such acts are the very ſpirit of their inſtitution. It forms a line almoſt a mile long, with an eaſy curve or two; and nearly forms a bounding fence between St. Margaret's and St. Mary's Fields. This walk, which is gravelled from one end to the other, was, at the end neareſt the town, originally ornamented moſt delightfully with young trees of various ſorts. Evergreens and ſhrubs, by this time, would have formed an agreeable ſhade in the ſummer months for the company who reſort thither. However, ſome wretches, nightly depredators, have ſeized every opportunity to deſtroy the lovely proſpect, by breaking off the heads of almoſt every young plant ſet thereon; ſome die of wounds, and others, headleſs and diſmembered, live in wretchedneſs. They, as it were, linger out a life of wretchedneſs, that paſſengers may deteſt the perpetrators of ſuch wantonneſs and miſchief.

Curiosities.

Here is no public aſſemblage of curioſities or antiquities to entertain the ſtranger, notwithſtanding we have ſome things, in this place, which deſerve particular notice. Under this head I ſhall introduce ſome recent diſcoveries of an important nature, which have been made ſince the pages above have been printed, conſequently they could not be placed under the articles to which they more properly belong.

Miſs *Linwood*, I believe, ſtands unrivalled by any female in the Britiſh dominions for her imitations of painting in needle-work. The moſt honourable mention has been made, by many of our firſt-rate artiſts of her inimitable copies, which are, from the greateſt maſters, antient and modern. Her beauties have been exhibited before their Majeſties and the prime nobility of the land, with deſerving applauſe. She has now a collection, from her own labours, more wonderful than can be conceived. She has lately copied the *Salvator Mundi*, from the

the Burleigh collection, near Stamford, juſt and maſterly. Here ferocious animals, from Stubbs, are nothing ſhort of the originals in effect. To be brief, almoſt every thing you ſee in her rooms of needle-work ſhews a wonderful perſeverance and ſingular abilities!

I cannot refrain bearing teſtimony to this lady's indulgence in permitting moſt genteel people, who apply, to a ſight of her extraordinary labours, with the moſt chearful acquieſcence.

Miſs Watts, another lady of this place, of family and literary abilities, has been exceedingly happy in her imitations of drawings and paintings, with the plumage of birds. They were to me a new and delightful ſight, and have been, I doubt not, to many others. She, alſo, with an amiable condeſcenſion, gratifies the curious with a ſight of her pleaſing productions.

Of preſerved birds Mr. *J. Oſwin* has a ſmall but beautiful collection.

Of antient coins, I obſerved, in page 21, that Mr. John Coltman has a collection deſerving the attention of the antiquary.

John Brook, Eſq. has a curious Miſſal, and the original Paraphraſe of the Lord's Prayer, ſuppoſed to be written by Charles the Firſt, engraven for this work, facing page 114. The book in which it was written was the late Mr. Bickerſtaff's, which *he* preſerved as a curious relic; but he died without informing any of his friends in what manner he came by it.

Charles the Firſt's letter, and Prince Rupert's, and the latter's receipt, copied facing page 114, are in the hands of one who ſuffered a friend of mine to copy them. In whoſe poſſeſſion they are I know not.

The Rev. Mr. Pigot has ſome fragments of teſſellated pavement, taken from the earth in ſinking to make a foundation for the county priſon. The urn repreſented in plate, page 310, was found deep in the earth at the ſame time and place, and is alſo in his poſſeſſion. He has a fine caſt of Mr. Gray, and ſome other things which he eſteems.

I have a ſmall collection of foſſils, from Bottesford, Pickwell, Quenby, Kirby, and Barrow. The gauntlet of old Beler, who was ſlain near Rearſby, in this county, in 1326. Part of the bedſtead of Richard III. repreſented page 62; and the fine fragment of painted glaſs copied in the annexed plate by the late Mr. Schnebbelie, draughtſman to the Society of Antiquaries, London. This beautiful painting, I am informed, was brought from Italy by the late David Wells, Eſq. of Burbach, in this county, F. A. S. The urn, repreſented page 7, taken from the antient lead coffin in Humberſtone-gate, and the fragment of a Britiſh or Roman tile, noticed page 171, are alſo in my poſſeſſion.

Of coins I have a few, valuable for their locality, being all found in Leiceſter; among which are the fine FAVSTINA engraved fig. 2, page 19; HADRIAN, page 21, fig. 2; and that finely-preſerved one repreſented in plate 3, page 388, of recent diſcoveries. This laſt is of high importance to the remote hiſtory of this place, which is ſhewn in the account of the following

RECENT DISCOVERIES.

Fig. 1. in the ſecond plate facing this page, was found lately in Humberſtone-gate, near the ſpot where were found the coffin and urns mentioned in page 21. This probably Roman brick is 3 inches thick, and was originally 16 inches long, but a part now is broken off. I am at a loſs to judge of its original uſe.

The *Bone* which accompanies that figure on the plate was dug from a grave in St. Martin's church; it appears to have been the broken bone of ſome perſon never properly ſet, or ſet by ſome bungler in his profeſſion; in either caſe *Dame Nature* ſeems to have performed wonders. The brick and bone are in my poſſeſſion.

The *Church Ruin*, facing page 386, is the remains of St. John's church, for centuries inviſible. The workmen who were engaged to take

St. Peter.



Schnebbelie. del. et. sc

From a fine fragment of painted Glass in the poſſeſsion of J. Throsby.


G.R.
III

fig 1.



fig 2.



Recent Discoveries.

G.P. 16
BRITISH MUSEUM

take down the old town-gaol the latter end of the year 1792, were ſurpriſed at diſcovering, partly within the thick walls of this building, a regular ſtone arch, reſembling thoſe avenues of a church leading from the nave of old churches to the ſide-ailes. Mr. Firmadge, their maſter, was ſo obliging as to communicate the diſcovery to me; upon which I went thither, and was gratified with a ſight which agreeably ſtruck me. I ſaw clearly the remains of the old church, college, or chapel, of St. John, which was known to have ſtood upon this ſite, but ſuppoſed to have been long ſince completely deſtroyed. I could not help comparing the diſcovery to a riſing from the dead, and am perſuaded that the reader will not wonder at the expreſſion when he conſiders its high antiquity. It probably received a death-wound in 1173, at the demolition of the town (*a*). No other church in Leiceſter, excepting St. Mary's chancel, and ſome other parts of that venerable pile, bear the leaſt teſtimonies of comparative age.

Before I attempt a deſcription of this ruin, I would juſt obſerve that I drew it on different days, in detached parts, as the workmen cleared away the impediments and obſtacles. A general view, at one time, I could never obtain. The arches of the nave, ſeen in the engraving, were completely filled up with ſtones and mortar of an equal thickneſs with the original church-walls, and in many places they were covered over with coarſe mortar. Indeed the whole, I may ſay, was buried or hidden by rectangular lines of the priſon-walls, which formed little dungeons, cells, and rooms. The viciſſitude of things, as well as mortals, are fine leſſons to him who is capable of thinking, and who profits by comparing the inſtability of this life with that we are promiſed.

(*a*) In *Tanner's Notitia Monaſtica* is ſome account of this place: Here was an Hoſpital, or Spital-houſe, before A. D. 1235, for a maſter, brethren, and ſiſters, dedicated to St. John Baptiſt and Evangeliſt, whoſe "*lands were for the moſt part given by King Edward IV. to the College of Newark,*" as Leland, Itin. Vol. I. 12.

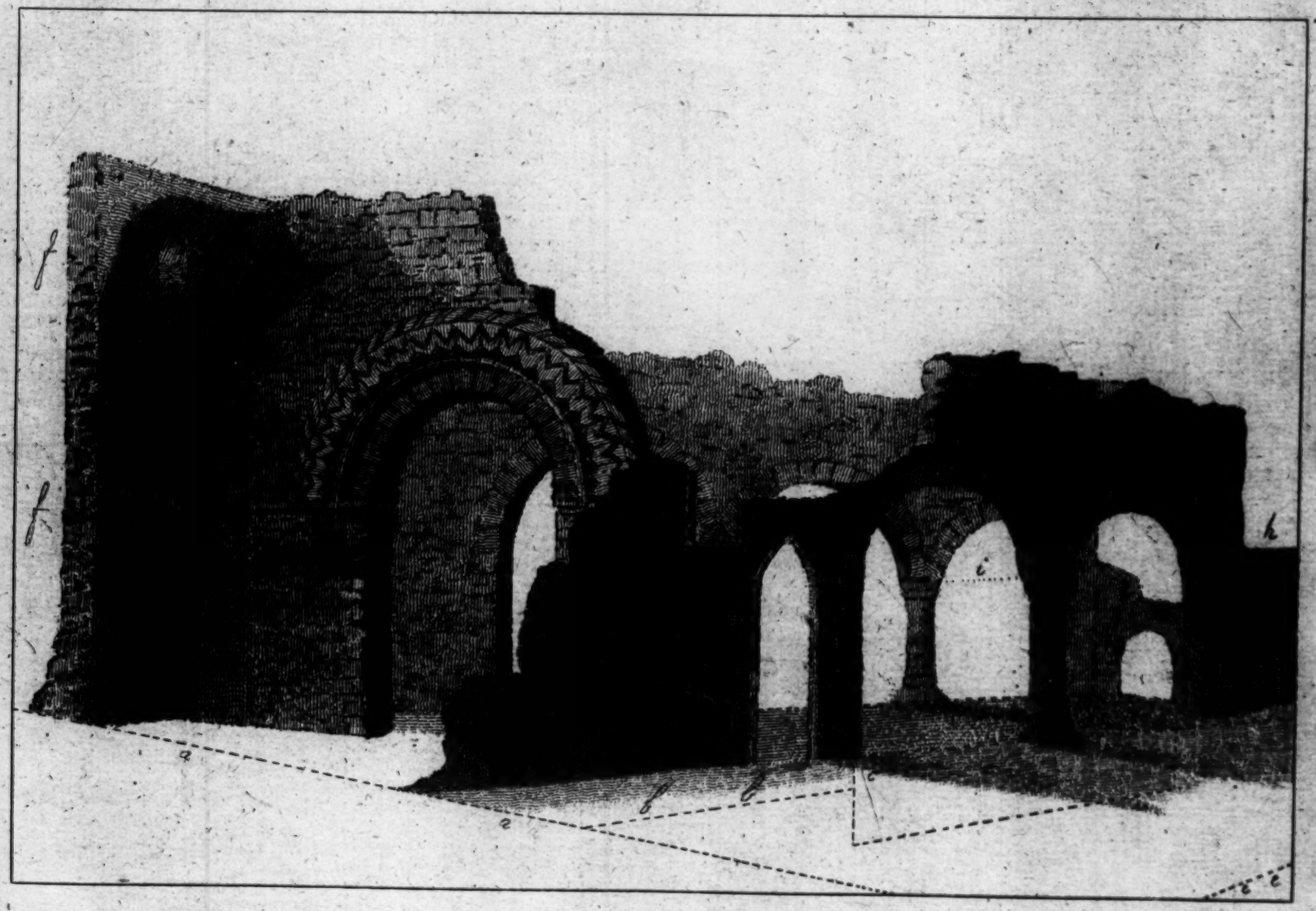
"The Corporation of Leiceſter having purchaſed ſome of the lands which belonged to the diſſolved Colleges and Hoſpitals in this place, and the ſite of this Hoſpital, about 31 Eliz. have made the town-gaol upon part of it, and on the other part founded an Hoſpital for Poor Widows."

The high altar which before ſerved to communicate the will of Heaven to proſtrate men in their devotional exerciſes, ſerved, latterly, as a cell for unfortunate criminals, murderers, and robbers, doomed to an ignominious death by the offended laws of their country. The arch againſt *c c* ſerved as the back of a large chimney in the gaol kitchen; the opening at *b* was made the paſſage into the ale-cellar. Other apartments of this religious ſanctuary were converted into habitations for the moſt abandoned, in chains and fetters. The fine Saxon arch, at the Weſt end, it ſhould ſeem, was not defiled; it was ſcreened from ſight by the bounding wall of the ſtreet; and became an honourable paſſage for old age to the adjoining hoſpital.

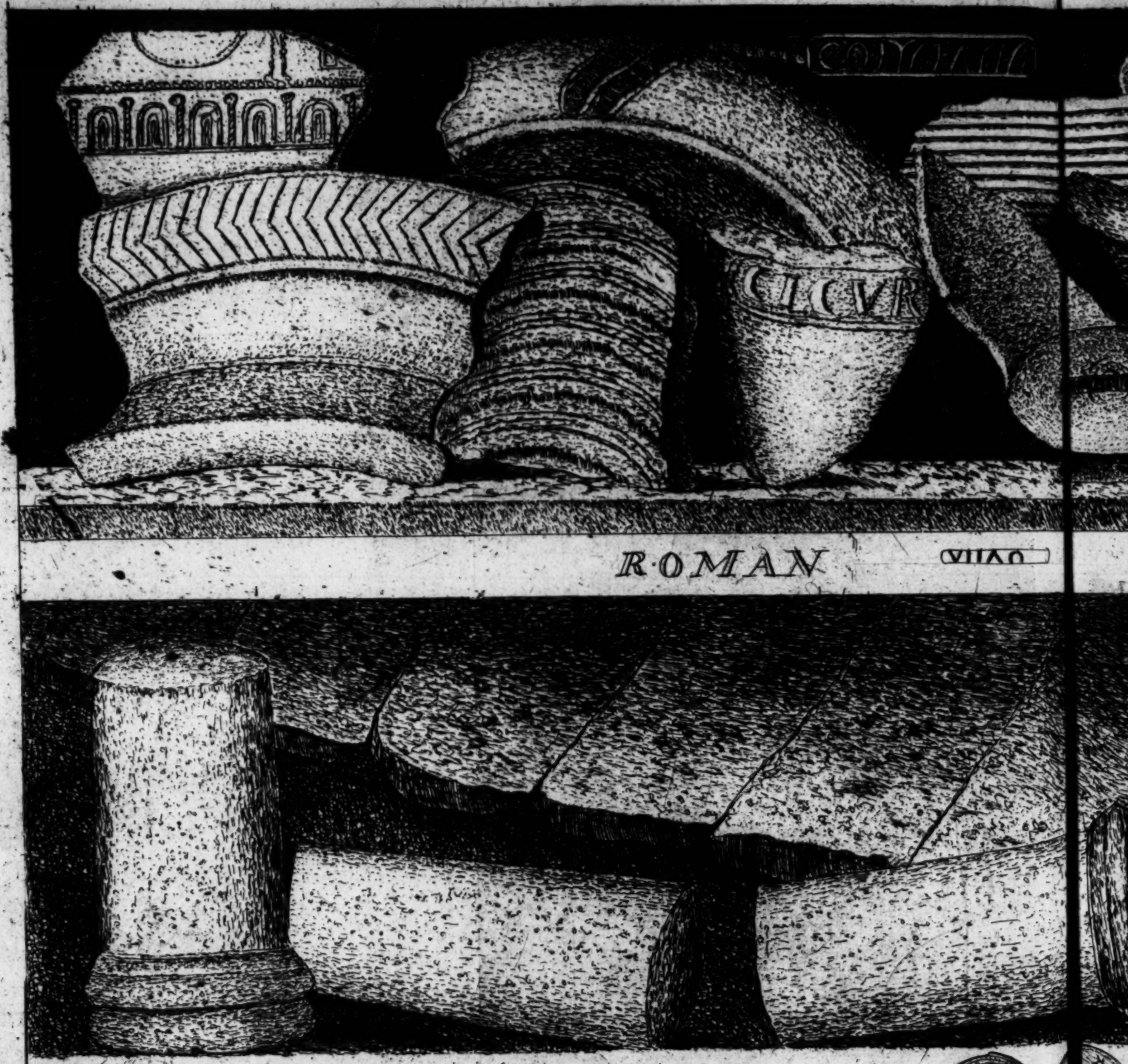
The letters and dotted lines on the plate are explained thus: *a a* the bounding wall of Northgate-ſtreet; *b b* the paſſage to the priſon-houſe; *e e* Gaol-lane; *f f* the ſite of St. John's and Bent's hoſpitals. The Saxon arch ſtood at the Weſt end of the nave, and ſerved, doubtleſs, originally, as the grand entrance into it. The wall *f f* correſponded with that *b b*; both which, at top, by appearances, once formed a kind of arched roof, and which might, perhaps, ſupport a ſort of turret, or ſteeple.

The pillars, or columns, which were rudely formed, were only ſix feet high, by five feet eight inches girth; ſpan of the arches nine feet. The nave ſeventeen feet four inches broad, and in length forty-one feet. The continuing wall *h*, eaſtwardly, was fourteen feet in length; the walls, in thickneſs, in general, three feet eight inches. Upon the capitals of the pillars, if I may be allowed the expreſſion, for they were almoſt without deſign, lay croſsways large oak beams; I apprehend, laid there when it was converted into a priſon: they were in number four, and much corroded in ſome places. Theſe beams alone are ſtrong proofs of the antiquity of the ruin; they could not originally be laid there, on account of their ſituation line *i*. Theſe pieces of timber were wrought into grooves beneath, on each ſide, excepting the two end ones, which were only wrought on one ſide, that from the

end



ST IOHN'S CHAPEL.



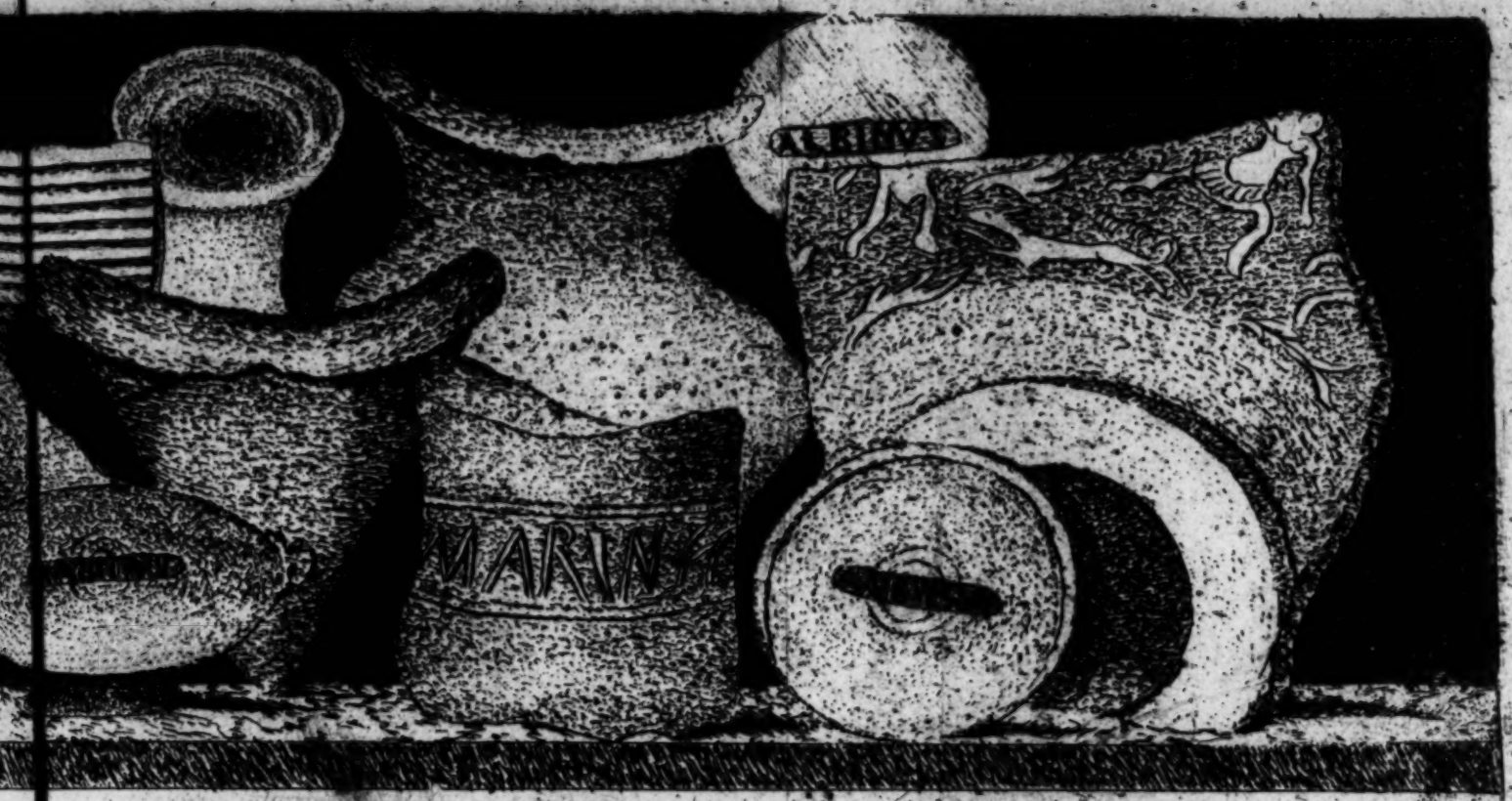
ROMAN

Drawn by J. T.

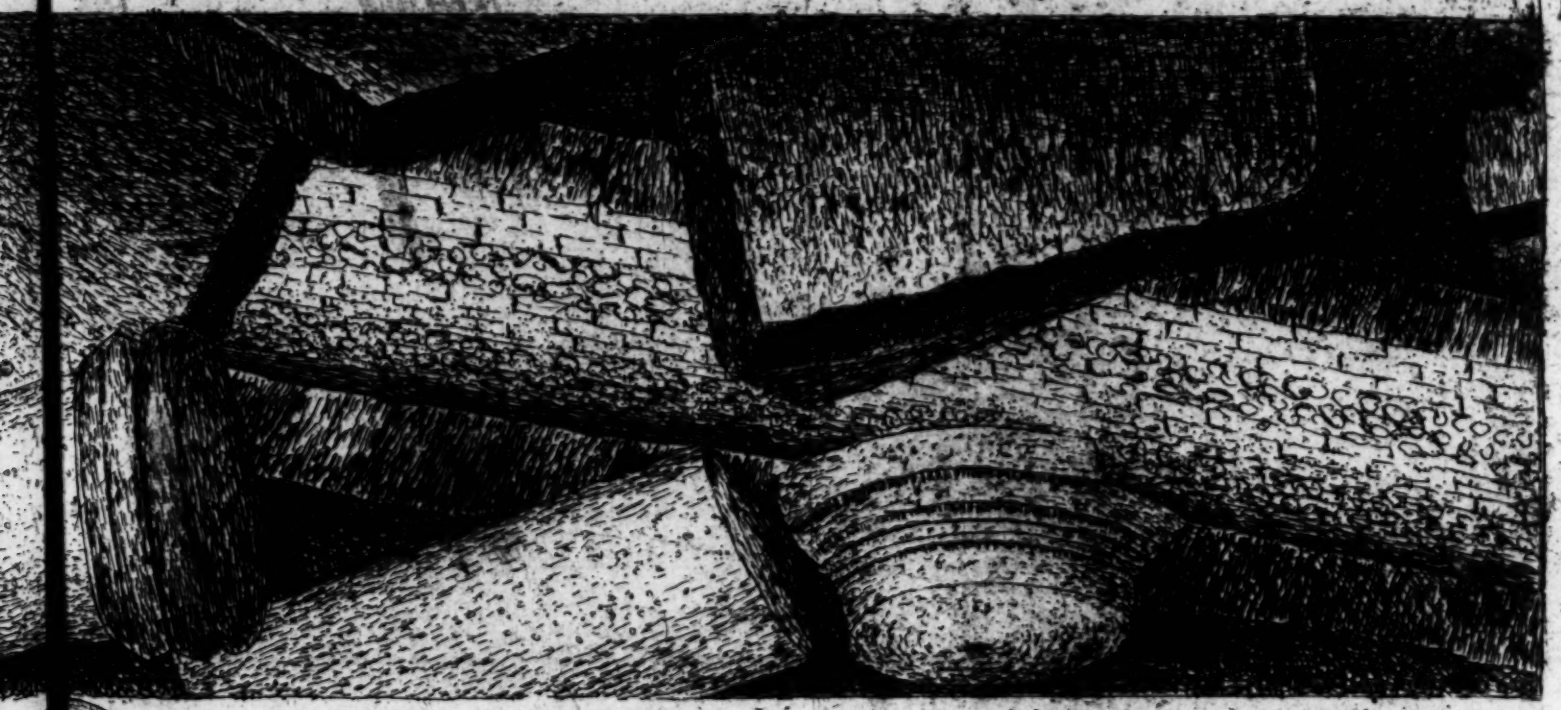
RECENT



PL.



POTTERY.



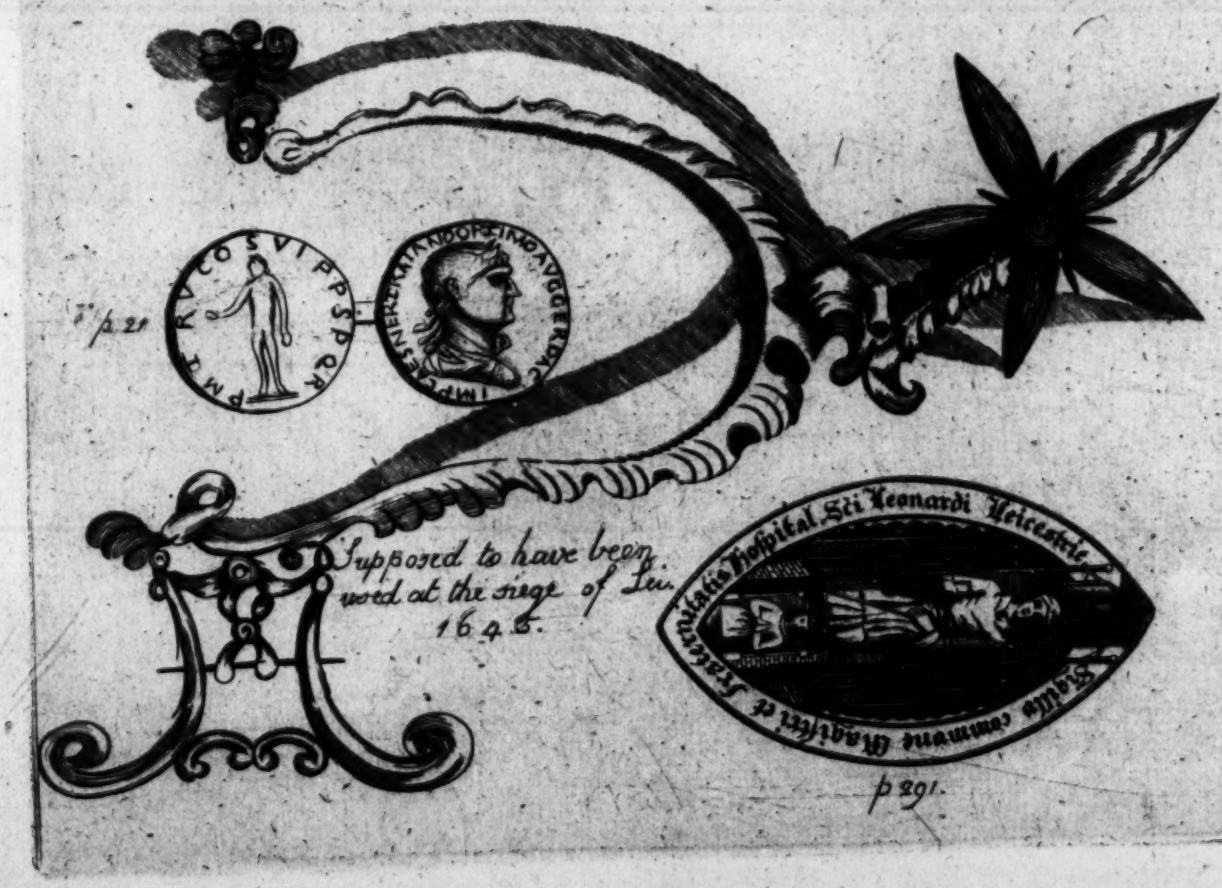
DISCOVERIES.


G.R. III.

G.R. III
BRITISH MUSEUM



Saxon Arch. Cell. Ancient Column



end wall. I judged that this timber might ſerve, originally, to ſupport the roof of this fabrick, but afterwards was let down to ſerve as principals for the floor which covered them.

I attended at the taking up of ſome human bones, depoſited long ſince within the walls of this religious cemetery; in all about twelve ſkulls; more have been taken up, but none perfect. Theſe bones, I could eaſily trace, lay in the uſual way of Chriſtian burial, but within eighteen inches of the ſurface of the ground, in a ſandy ſoil, which, in my opinion, much aided their preſervation. It ſhould be underſtood that the ground, under which they lay, had been lowered, to make a kind of cellar, above two feet from the level of the other parts of the priſon. I ſaw not the leaſt appearance of a coffin or rotten mould. Theſe ſkeletons, probably, were interred before the general uſe of wooden coffins. Some found, without the church ruin, had coffin appearances about them, one of which meaſured ſeven feet in length (*a*).

(*a*) I carried home, from this repoſitory of the dead, near the altar end, a fine-formed *ſkull*, and hailed it as that of a pious prieſt of the 12th or 13th century. The brow of this graceful remains of man, after it had been waſhed, dried, and made comfortable by a good November fire, appeared comely and like virgin's-wax. Who, after being ſo familiar with it, would not have coveted a little prattle? As a prieſt in thoſe early ages of Chriſtianity, he might have entertained me with ſentiments of religion the moſt pure, drawn from the practice of holy men, with whom he lived in habits of godlineſs. I, alas! might have contraſted ſuch pleaſing relations by dejecting tales from the labours of ſome of the preſent race of mortals, undermining with philoſophic pride that glorious fabric, which the amiable, in every age, have looked up to as their eternal hope. Thou dear companion of pious meditation, inſtructive ſkull! let ſuch enjoy what numbers, I am perſuaded, will never covet. Let us learn, from ſuch remains of mortality as thee, humility and peace, while the mountains ſhake with the deſtruction of empires and religion. Let us *ſolace* with ſuch veſtiges of paſt time, in ſilence, diſtant from the language of profanation, too frequently to be heard in the company of men, and ſeen in books. Thou, beſt of teachers, ſhalt reſt within the little cell in my garden, a companion to that beautiful religious fragment without, the Saxon arch of St. John's church, which long hallowed thy grave. Uncertainty! thou which ſeemeſt to ſport with our moſt delectable things, like the winds with a feather, when their owners are no more, I invoke thee to be favourable to theſe hoary remnants of ages long paſt. If no man, after I am gone, think neither one nor the other worth preſerving, let a houſe of God ſhelter them, where one may reſt in a peaceable grave, and the other honour that grave as a tomb.

The broken veſſel, fig. 1. etched facing this page, was found, ſoon after the church ruin, deep in the earth, on the ſame premiſes. It is burnt on one ſide almoſt to a cinder. It is very probable that it has remained there ever ſince the grand demolition of Leiceſter, in 1173, as it lay in burnt rubbiſh. Mr. Firmadge, one of the preſent Chamberlains of Leiceſter, added this fragment to my collection; as he did alſo, politely, the Saxon arch of St. John's church, or chapel.

The Cloaca or Sewer of the Romans, another recent diſcovery which ſoon after followed, is of great importance to the hiſtory and age of this place: it happened in February 1793. As ſome workmen were employed in removing the earth from a piece of ground nearly an equal diſtance between the Jewry Wall and the river, they diſcovered, at the depth of about five feet, ſome very large blocks of freeſtone, half a ton weight; and, on their being removed, it was diſcovered they had been placed over a kind of tunnel, 2 feet over and 4 deep, made of the ſame kind of materials and built on the ſame principles as the Jewry Wall. The bottom of this tunnel is of freeſtone like the blocks which cover it. The commencement of it (ſo far as is known) is in a cellar of Mr. S. Roberts's houſe, near the ſouth end of Jewry Wall, and continues, with a conſiderable deſcent, in a right line, north weſtwardly to the river (*a*).

In emptying this tunnel of its contents, (for it was completely glutted up,) I found that it contained light earthy particles on the ſurface, ſomewhat heavier lower, at the bottom gravelly, the whole blended with broken pottery, in general of a ſingular conſtruction; beſides which, a few bones of animals were found therein, in a petrifying ſtate, and a fragment or two of glaſs veſſels; a bottom of one was layered with ſilver. Hence it ſeems apparent that this ſubterraneous paſſage was originally the CLOACA or common Sewer of the Roman Town. It is repreſented in the loweſt diviſion of the plate.

(*a*) Page 348 I noticed a traditional account of a vaulted paſſage from Leiceſter to Bradgate; which was mentioned by Mr. Carte in a letter to Dr. Ducarel.

Among



RECENT DISCOVERIES. PL. 2.

G.R. III.
BRITISH MUSEUM

Among the fragments of pottery, which I ſelected from this ſtore-houſe of antiquarian treaſure, I was agreeably ſurpriſed to find ſome Roman characters impreſſed in relievo, very legible. In one or two inſtances, however, the contrary is the caſe, to me at leaſt: theſe I will firſt notice. On the rim of a portion of a veſſel made of white clay, are characters doubly impreſſed with an apparent rude inſtrument. This fragment is repreſented with a label on the top of the preceding plate.

I need not obſerve that CO are legible enough; the others call for inveſtigation. The veſſel originally was made ſhallow: its circumference, near the rim, about 27 inches: the breadth of the rim, which forms a half circle, 2 inches: it is layered within with a kind of grit, or ſmall pebble, and bears the marks of fire. Might not this veſſel be a cenſer uſed in ſacrifice, called by the Romans THURIBULUM? The other illegible characters are on the bottom of a veſſel made of beautiful red clay. I gueſs that theſe all remain but one: they are copied between ROMAN POTTERY in the above plate.

The legible characters are impreſſed chiefly on the bottoms of veſſels of red clay, faſhioned like a wine-glaſs which is narrow at the bottom and broad at top. Theſe were probably cups uſed in libations, with Emperors or Conſuls names impreſſed thereon. One has MACRINI, probably the emperor Opilius Macrinus who reigned 218 years after Chriſt. This fragment is ſhewn in the middle of the plate of ROMAN POTTERY. Another has ALBINVS; the third, ALBVSA. Theſe are ſhewn on the right hand of the plate. Part of a bottom has only the ending of a name TOR or IOR. If TOR, it might ſtand for, or rather be the ending of CLAVD. FVSCVS SALINATOR, who flouriſhed after Chriſt's nativity 118 years. The O and R are very plain. If IOR, there can be no aſcertaining for whom it ſtood, as it doubtleſs, in that caſe, ſtands part of the word IVNIOR of which there were Emperors and Conſuls many between the year 319 and 541.

A part

A part of two other impreſſions found near, but without the ſhore at the ſame time, bear theſe characters reſpectively, CICVR and MARΓNH, on a ſort of compoſition-ſtone. See the above plate. Partly adjoining it, and nearly of a level with the covering ſtones, was diſcovered a floor of extraordinary formation: it conſiſted of mortar, ſmall pebbles, and pounded brick or tile, of each about an equal portion. I have preſerved a piece of it as a ſingular curioſity; it ſhews ſtrongly the ſimplicity and artleſſneſs of the age when it was formed. Dare we ſay that this was a labour of the inhabitants of this iſland prior to the invaſion of the Romans?

One of the beſt-preſerved coins, in copper, I have ever ſeen, was ſhoveled from the top of one of the covering ſtones of the ſhore. It appears of the Auguſtine age. Round the head VRBS ROMA; on the reverſe Romulus and Remus ſuckled by a wolf. Another coin of inferior metal, nearly the ſize of the former, was found at the ſame time with the ſtones which have the inſcriptions CICVR and MARΓNH; but this, time has ſo defaced, that the head is ſcarcely viſible; on the reverſe nothing is diſtinguiſhable, ſcarcely, to make it differ, in appearance, from a lump of baſe metal injured by ruſt.

To attempt a deſcription of all the fragments of pottery would be vain; the variety is manifold both with reſpect to colour and formation. It is remarkable, that none of the pieces are glazed except one, but thoſe made of red clay: the exception is a ſmall piece of thin black pottery, delicately veined. When I compare this little beauty to many others which ſeem artleſs in their formation, their original uſe myſterious, and bear about them no characteriſtic but clumſy ſtrength, I am, ſometimes, apt to conceive they, reſpectively, were in uſe at very diſtant periods. One piece of red clay has a rude repreſentation of hunting; two figures appear in Roman military dreſſes; one pretty perfect. The glazed pottery has ſuffered nothing from time, many of the other it has much injured. A gentleman looking at my collection, and obſerving one heavy piece, which has neither its top nor bottom remaining, obſerved it might be part of a PRIAPUS. It certainly

tainly bears the character of *ill-ſhapen*; but not *enormouſly large*. Beſides numbers of pieces which ſeemed formed for culinary purpoſes, there is a variety of different-ſized heads of veſſels, of white clay, with thick ſhort handles to the necks; upon the whole not unlike the top of candleſticks.

Plate II. fig 2, 3; Recent diſcoveries; are ſingular pieces of pottery. 4, is the bone of an animal in a petrifying ſtate. 5, 6, are repreſentations of veſſels, formed from fragments of pottery, to ſhew other original formations. All theſe were found within the ſewer.

Within the ſpace of a yard of this ancient ſewer lay the baſe of two columns; and two ſhafts, each above a yard long, girth nearly a yard and three fourths; none of theſe lay below the blocks of ſtone which covered the ſhore. About the ſame time, but at the diſtance of thirty yards from theſe, was diſcovered, on a bed of fine red clay, at the depth of 12 feet, a capital of a column, made of the ſame ſort of ſtone as the baſe and columns, and correſponding, in every particular, with them. I have put all the members of one column together in my garden. This, now it is erected, ſhews that it was originally hewn behind to fit ſome rugged building, probably of foreſt ſtone (*a*). This column does not correſpond exactly with any order; it is of a purple hue. I obſerved in the centre of the ſhaft, where there had been originally a piece of ſquare iron to hold the joints together, that that which remained of the iron was reduced to a ruſty mould. Near theſe columns lay two amazing ſtrong foundations of a conſiderable building made of foreſt ſtone and grout; the extraordinary floor mentioned above joined to one of them. On this wrought ſtone I dare ſay but little. The defenceleſs traditions of a Janus' Temple, and a King

(*a*) Charnwood foreſt, about nine miles from Leiceſter, preſents you with ſome picturesque ſcenery of the rock, which workmen ſay will not chiſel into form. All the old foundations, ſo frequently diſcovered in Leiceſter, in the old part of the town, many of which take directions quite acroſs the preſent ſtreets, are made wholly of this durable rock.

Lera's palace I have noticed in this work; but to conjecture that this column belonged to one or the other might ſubject me, very properly, to cenſure. Reſpecting a Janus' Temple, at Leiceſter, I will endeavour to ſhew in what manner that opinion might originate.

Who ever heard of a Janus' Temple, of any conſequence, but that built by Numa at Rome, with two brazen gates, one on each ſide, to be open in war, and ſhut in time of peace? That *Jani* or *Janua* might be a name or names brought from Rome, and adopted at this place when the Romans made a ſettlement here, is probable, as we find, that people called thoroughfares after the god Janus' name, *Jani*; and gates, even of private houſes, *Januæ*. Whatever might be the knowledge of the inhabitants of this place reſpecting the original uſe of the old wall, called Janus' Temple, prior to the total demolition of Leiceſter in 1173, at that great event, it is probable, the little light that then remained upon the ſubject would be totally obſcured for ever. For we are told that few or none of its inhabitants, who were driven thence, at that time, returned back; and that the place, even more than a century after, was of no import, and almoſt then wholly in ruins. It would be natural for thoſe who ſettled here, after this event, to enquire ſomething about the old wall and its name, which might then retain that of *Jani* or *Janua*. And how eaſily for thoſe who were at a loſs to account for theſe names, as gates or thoroughfares, to conclude that *Jani* or *Janua* muſt mean Janus, and that this old wall muſt be part of a Janus' Temple. Any one muſt perceive how eaſily the tranſition would be made from *Jani* or *Janua*, to JANUS; particularly by thoſe who are fond of the marvellous, who, by a happy knack, peculiar to themſelves, can ſtretch a pigmy to a giant, or make a mountain of a mole-hill.

Thus I am of opinion, that the error, in tradition, has been honoured with the approbation of ſome men of reſpectability, who, if they had not truſted too much upon common fame, but had taken time in carefully ſtudying and examining this ruin, would have

found two of the ſtrongeſt teſtimonies of its name and uſe ſtill remaining: inſcriptions on its brow could not have conveyed ideas more forcible. Theſe are the two remaining arch-ways, ſeen moſt perfectly on the river-ſide the wall, which were, it is clear, originally, nothing but foot-paſſages or thoroughfares. But let us not wonder that a thing ſo venerable, whoſe age is now probably verging on 2000 years, ſhould have undergone a change both with reſpect to name and uſe. Let us rather wonder that ſuch a noble monument of thoſe very remote ages ſhould ſtill remain. Let us wonder that it has ſtood ſo long the ſhock of ſeaſons, the war of elements, and the ravages of man, and now ſhould retain about it ſuch evidences of what it has been!

The lately-diſcovered ſewer, which may be deemed an appendage to Jewry-Wall, and, as it were, reſted at its baſe this long ſucceſſion of ages, has been honoured by the happy and inventive genius of man, alſo, with a name which bears no analogy to a ſink-hole, (an appellation which ſome might honour this CLOACA of the Romans with.) It has been elevated by writers on antiquity, who certainly never ſaw it or knew its courſe, to a ſubterraneous paſſage, through which men might walk erect even under the river Leir, thence to Bradgate; a place three miles from Leiceſter. Men have talked of lamps burning perpetually within it. Pigs, it has been ſaid, have been ſent down it, and returned with their briſtles ſinged, &c. &c. Some have fixed its entrance at one place, and ſome at another. Thus have men ſpoken of this embryo ſomething long before its birth. And thus will men continue to treat even viſible things, like the old wall, which to them are incomprehenſible. Tales miraculous and wonderful, ſplendid and magnificent, have charms ſuited to every ear; but ſober inveſtigation, which oppoſes eſtabliſhed and rooted opinions, has attraction but, for the few. With reſpect to the opinion given of the ſewer, I am apprehenſive, few will cavil at; but with reſpect to that given of the antient wall, ſome may have their doubts, and by ma-

turer judgment may be more happy in their concluſions. Be that as it may, I am firmly of an opinion now, that it never was *any portion of a Janus' temple*, or *any other temple*, *a Roman bath*, or *any building of public notoriety*; and that it was nothing more than a principal gate-wall, at or near the entrance into the city, from the Foſs or Roman road, which paſſeth within little more than a quarter of a mile weſtwardly of the river. As to its retaining the name of Jewry-Wall, *that* might happen from the circumſtance of the Jews, ſome centuries ago, being compelled to live together in certain diſtricts of every city in England: in Leiceſter, they might be compelled to live together, in habitations, near this wall, and *Jew* or *Jewry* might of courſe, afterwards, be added to *wall*.

Theſe inferences may be drawn, from what has been ſaid above, reſpecting the age of Jewry-Wall, ſome having called it a Britiſh, ſome a Roman, and ſome a Saxon, labour: that if Jewry-Wall was built by the Romans (by far the moſt probable conjecture) the ſewer proves that the manner of building it is not peculiar to itſelf; but rather to the age in which it was built. The contents of the ſewer, the pottery, and the coins, prove to a certainty the ſewer to have been made at or prior to the time of the Romans inhabiting this country. What language can ſpeak truths more forcibly than the high evidences ſtamped upon the pottery? Theſe remnants of long-paſt ages were depoſited, as it ſhould ſeem, by the hand of chance in a tomb more durable than braſs or marble, where time has effected no change! Here they have reſted inviolate, equally ſecure from the hand of the barbarous, and the touch of the inquiſitive. This long-hidden vault has been happily the grand repoſitory of hiſtoric knowledge, which no artful diſputant can gainſay. Nothing in this antient place, which is daily iſſuing forth its antiquarian riches, has ever been diſcovered, prior to this time, of equal importance to the hiſtory and age of Leiceſter. That renowned and celebrated inſcription on the Roman milliary, found, a few years ſince, near Leiceſter, ſup-

poſed

poſed to be the oldeſt inſcription then in Britain, ſome have dared to doubt its being wholly genuine. But what knife, what chiſel, or what other inſtrument, could make or alter the characters on the pottery, found in the ſewer, after they had paſſed the fire? On this ſubject even the tongue of the quibbler muſt be ſilent.

I will now juſt notice the *ſewer* and the *old wall* collectively, as they muſt, hereafter, I am perſuaded, be allowed to be labours of the ſame age, and that age about the birth of Chriſt. The *old wall*, the river (i. e. the new cut ſuppoſed to be made by the Romans), and the *Foſs-way*, lie on lines parallel to each other. The wall is ſeated on the brow of a gentle riſe from the river, at an eaſy diſtance. Where the ſewer commences at the South end of it, I am apprehenſive, might be the grand entrance, the Janua-gate. The cloaca, I conceive, was ſeated in the centre of this entrance for carrying off the filth of the city into the river, down the declivity, as that of Rome into the Tiber, made by Tarquinius Priſcus. This, like that great work of Tarquinius Superbus, called CLOACA MAXIMA, had alſo its collateral branches: one I ſaw at the diſcovery of the cloaca at Leiceſter, which lay in a direction pointing from the grand tunnel North-eaſtwardly into the city. It was made of very large broad blocks of free ſtone, hewn in the centre, like ſpouts uſed under the eves of houſes. The principal ſewer took not an immediate direction to the river; but led to the ſtream of the river after it had paſſed the town; the reaſon was, doubtleſs, to keep the river as pure as poſſible for uſe. The old courſe of the river leads nearly to the lower mouth of the ſewer, which emptied itſelf into the river, in a line South-weſtwardly. The Roman cut paſſeth juſt under the town from its commencement a little beyond the Caſtle Mill above the town.

The wrought ſtone, I obſerved above, was found about an equal diſtance between the Janua-wall and the river, where, by the ſtrong foundations, diſcovered thereabouts, might have been a capital building for the chief of the ſettlement. A better-choſen ſite could not

be

be found in Leiceſter, for proſpect, health, and convenience. The Romans, we are told, were uncommonly fond of adorning their houſes with pillars. In their public or private buildings their grand entrances had a pillar on each ſide, often half a circle only. The pillar, or column, which I have preſerved, ſeems to have been made more for an ornament of this ſort than for a ſupport.

Floors of teſſellated, or Roman, pavement, have been found on both ſides the river, which denote that buildings have ſtood on their ſite: one was found, within this century, near the bath gardens, and another in a cherry-orchard near the foſs-way; theſe I have noticed at the beginning of this hiſtory. But pavements of this ſort are numberleſs, which have been found within the town, eaſtwardly, beyond the old wall: a ſtrong indication that the old wall was the bounding wall of the city.

I have ſtudied, with ſome attention, that part of Leiceſter, which theſe reſpective monuments of antiquity now honour, and where, I doubt not, there are others of conſiderable import ſtill embowelled in the earth. If I have failed in ſome of my concluſions, I ſhall receive a happineſs in the reflection, that they may call forth the attention of others better qualified for inveſtigating ſubjects of ſuch remote antiquity. It will alſo give me much pleaſure if this account ſhould fall into the hands of any one who may be happy in giving a juſt reading to the, at preſent, illegible characters, ſome of which, it is probable, may ſtand for abbreviated words.

Another diſcovery of ſome importance was made known to me, by Mr. T. Lomas, of this place. His workmen having been employed in the April following, in removing a portion of the earth, which was formerly the Grey-Friars (the burial-place of Richard III.) for the purpoſe of making ſome additional buildings to his houſe there, they found, at the depth of two yards, a fragment of a Roman pavement formed of a variety of coloured ſquares, very ſmall, but merely deſtitute of deſign. This diſcovery was, almoſt immediately, ſucceeded by

fig 2.

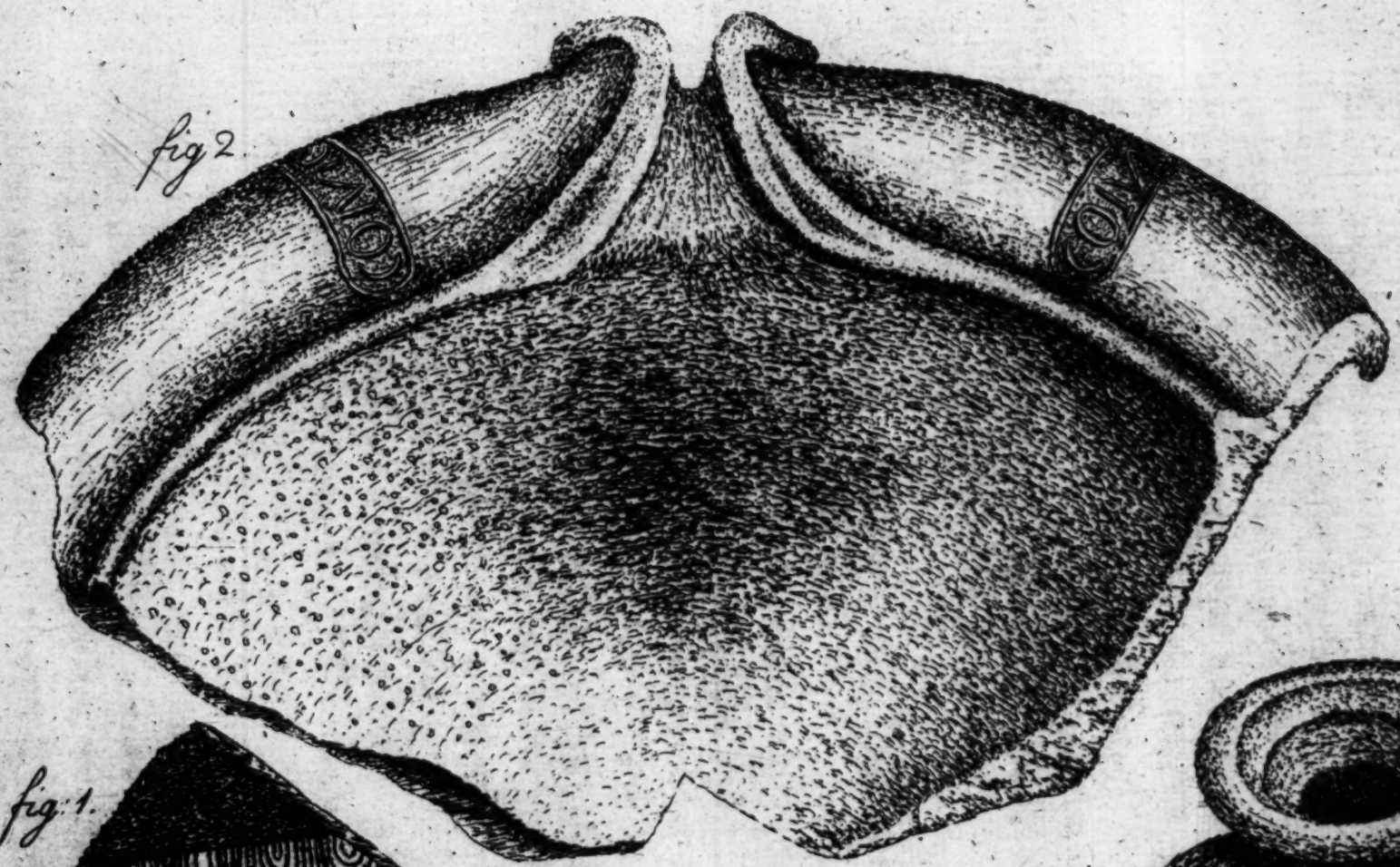


fig 1.





FRAGMENTS.

by that of an extraordinary formed veſſel of ſtone, ſhallow, but in other reſpects like an apothecary's common ſized mortar. It had ſeveral projections without, ſeemingly for ſtrength; within, its circumference about four feet. Near the pavement were alſo found many pieces of pottery, and part of a curious Roman tile, ornamented with parallel lines at equal diſtances. The pieces of pottery correſpond exactly, in every particular, with thoſe found in the ſewer; one of which deſerves more than ordinary notice; it is engraved in the plate facing the page fig. 1. with two other fragments from this diſcovery. It is a part of a large veſſel of fine red clay, glazed, with a variety of devices and figures thereon, in relievo on the outſide; many of the ornaments agree exactly with the hunting piece noticed above, but it is conſiderably larger. On one compartment is a figure like a maſtiff dog, running; another repreſents a man in a Roman dreſs, in an attitude like dancing, with ſomething like a ſnake in each hand, forming a half circle over his head with their tails; but theſe figures are ſo rude that I may be wrong in my conjecture about them. Under the man's feet is a hare haſtily running. The next compartment, among other devices, ſhews a hound in full cry. One piece of pottery is exactly like that I noticed as a cenſer, layered within with grit and ſmall pebble. It is ſhewn on the ſame plate, fig. 2. This being a more perfect fragment, has a kind of out-let upon the rim for pouring forth its contents, which rather ſtaggers me in my opinion of theſe veſſels. It is probable that they were pateræ, or goblets, uſed to catch the blood of the victim in ſacrifice, which was afterwards poured upon the altar. This has two impreſſed inſcriptions from the ſame inſtrument; and has, like the other, CO, very legible at the beginning, followed by an aukward formed M, and a C, or O. See the copy of the impreſſion on the plate. When the characters are deciphered, we, perhaps, may have a juſter knowledge of their uſe. The other figure on the plate appears to be the top of a ſort of bottle, of white clay, of which there were many ſuch found in

the

the ſewer. Theſe things, there can be no doubt, are of the age of thoſe found within the ſewer. That with figures, taken as a picture, is of ſuperior excellence to all the reſt.

Natural Curiosities.

Leiceſter and its neighbourhood do not abound with any extraordinary productions, either in the vegetable or animal creation. I believe none have ever noticed, nor did I, till lately, diſcover, that any foſſil ſubſtances were to be found within the vicinity of this place. There are, however, in a portion of the free-ſtone quarry, near Leiceſter, called Dane-hills, to be found ſhelldfiſh, the ſize, and nearly the form of a Cockle.

I am tempted to ſay ſomething under this head, of the nimble Swallow, which viſits us with its cheering ſong during the ſummer months of the year. Some Naturaliſts have taken much pains to convince us that this bird emigrates for the purpoſe of living in warmer climates during the winter. I have ſometimes thought that they might as well tell us that flies, which are alſo inviſible during the winter, emigrate for the like purpoſe. Other opinions, however, agree with obſervations I have made reſpecting theſe birds; which is, that they reſt or ſleep during the winter months in lakes or rivers, or in the ſand-banks or ſedges of ſuch places. Each returning ſeaſon I wait with much impatience for their delightful company, when they announce upon our dwellings, with their early ſong, the new-born day. I watch their firſt appearance, and have often noted the variation of the day of each ſucceeding year they firſt viſit us. Thoſe who have had occaſion to paſs over meadows, paſtures, and low grounds, near ponds and rivers, at the latter end of March, or the beginning of April, muſt have obſerved them, as I have done, hovering, in ſilence, over theſe ſwampy grounds, when the ſun is moſt benignant at that ſeaſon of the year. And they muſt have obſerved alſo, that, for days together,

together, afterwards, in cold cloudy weather, they have diſappeated, Theſe obſervations were never more exemplified than in the preſent year 1793. At the beginning of April numbers of them appeared in St. Margaret's paſture, and in the Abbey meadow, near Leiceſter, which places are watered by ſeveral rivulets, and the Soar, in which are many ſedges, ſand-beds, and ſhelving banks. Notwithſtanding that it is now near a month ſince they were firſt ſeen in the places above named, none have yet been ſeen in the town. From the above remarks, and ſimilar obſervations I have made at other places in the ſpring of the year, we may conclude, that as the power of the ſun increaſes, or as the ſeaſon may be mild, their appearance is regulated; and that they are not tempted to leave the places near their winter habitations, till all Nature is, as it were, re-animated by the approach of ſummer.

CORN.

Average-price of wheat and barley in Leiceſter, at ſtated periods.

		s. d.		s. d.		l. s.
1600,	Wheat	10 6	1700,	19 6	1792,	2 15
——	Barley	6 0	——	12 0	——	2 4

Other grain in proportion.

LITERARY CHARACTERS.

It is far from my intention to ſay any thing of the reſpective works of thoſe now living amongſt us. In alphabetical order they ſtand thus; followed, reſpectively, by the title of their works.

Arnold Thomas, M. D. publiſhed in 1782, in 2 vol. 8vo. *Obſervations on the Nature, Kinds, Cauſes, and Prevention, of Inſanity, Lunacy, or Madneſs.*

Arnold, Mrs. the Doctor's lady, gave the world, in a ſmall pocket volume, a little work ſhe was pleaſed to call *Ideal Trifles.*

Gregory, the Rev. Joſeph, M. A. Vicar of St. Martin's and All-Saints pariſhes, publiſhed in 1791, a ſmall volume of *Diſcourſes on Hiſtorical Subjects.*

Houſeman, the Rev. Robert, M. A. publiſhed in 1793, an octavo volume of *Sermons upon Subjects, Names, and Titles, aſcribed in the Word of God to Jeſus Chriſt.*

Robinſon, the Rev. Thomas, M. A. vicar of St. Mary's, has publiſhed, periodically, three volumes of *Scripture Characters*, in octavo, which, it is ſaid, he intends to follow up with additional volumes.

Rozel, Mr. Charles, publiſhed many fugitive pieces, at various periods, of conſiderable merit, which are now collecting for republication: His labours conſiſt of a variety of ſongs, political and electioneering ſquibs, revolution-odes, &c. &c. Mr. Rozel died ſince the article, CHARACTERS, p. 175, was printed: conſequently he could not be claſſed under that head. I will therefore notice him here as a character.

Mr. Rozel was deſerving the name of a poet in every ſenſe of the word. "Poets are poor" is a common phraſe. By *his* conduct he ſeemed to covet the appellation. His abilities, in the poſſeſſion of ſome men, might have been a ſource of happineſs; to him they were the origin of evil. The love of company, at an early age, in which his genius was applauded, proved fatal to his proſperity. Linked to the ſociety of men, he diſſipated that time which might have brought him competency, if not wealth.

Nature, which alone makes poets, made him not the leaſt in her delightful train. He admired Churchill, and boldly modelled after him; and was often exceedingly happy in his imitations of that great maſter; but the ſubjects he choſe, or were rather choſen for him, (for he was often under the influence and guidance of little minds), required only abilities far below what he poſſeſſed. He often charmed in ſweet flowing numbers, proſtituted on diſguſtful and trifling ſubjects, rewarded only by his employers with a momentary gratification.

He

He died at an age when the faculties and ſtrength of men are, generally, at the higheſt pitch; but death, in conteſt with him, in the laſt ſtage of his life, had to encounter only a decrepid frame, tottering with weakneſſes and infirmities. He died at the age of 38, with a due and becoming deference for religion.

Vaughan James, M. D. publiſhed in octavo, in 1778, a ſecond edition, with a third caſe: *Caſes on the Hydrophobia.* To which is annexed an account of the *Cæſarian Section*, with reflections on dividing the *Symphyſis of the Oſſa Pubis.*

Watts, Miſs Elizabeth.—This lady I had occaſion to notice p. 383, as an artiſt. She publiſhed, at an early age, periodically, *The Selector.*

Weſton, Mr. Richard, has publiſhed *ſeveral Botanical Tracts.* His *Gardener's Kalendar* has gone through ſeveral editions.

Worthington, the Rev. Hugh, paſtor of the Preſbyterians, publiſhed in 1783, an octavo volume of *Diſcourſes on Various Subjects, Evangelical and Practical.*

MANUFACTORY.

The manufacture of Hoſe has been the chief mean of the proſperity of Leiceſter. It has diffuſed, with a bountiful hand, amongſt its inhabitants, riches and population. In this branch of commerce Leiceſter has no competitor of conſequence but Nottingham. Theſe places together form one grand machine, whoſe movement, at this time, A. D. 1792, is ſmooth and rapid, furniſhing employment for 20,000 people! This aſtoniſhing ſtatement will be eaſily credited when the various branches employed in the manufactory are enumerated, viz. hoſiers, ſtocking-makers, woolcombers, dyers, frame-ſmiths, comb-makers, winders, ſizers, ſeamers, ſpinners, bobbiners, ſinker-makers, ſtocking-needle makers, &c. &c.

In Leiceſter there are upwards of ſeventy manufacturers called hoſiers, who, it is computed, employ 3000 frames, i. e. including the

wrought goods they individually purchaſe. Out of the 14000 ſouls in Leiceſter, 6000, it is conjectured, are employed or depend on one branch or other of this great buſineſs.

The Rev. Mr. Roſs, of Leiceſter, gave the public, through the channel of the *Leiceſter Journal*, about four years ſince, an account of the firſt ſtocking-maker in Leiceſter. He ſays, "In the year 1680, Alſop, a Northamptonſhire man, came to Leiceſter, and reſided in the pariſh of All-Saints, at or near the North gate-way, where he followed the occupation of ſtocking-making, being the only perſon of that trade in Leiceſter. His firſt apprentice was Samuel Parker, and with Samuel Parker was Samuel Wright, a man well known here by many who are now living. The ſame Samuel Wright, in the latter period of his life, kept a potter's ſhop near the High-croſs, and died in the year 1768. About 30 years prior to his death, Wright communicated the above account to a perſon who is at this time alive, reſident in Leiceſter (*a*)."

The

(*a*) The firſt pair of worſted knit ſtockings, which was worn in England, was knit by Wm. Rider, a London apprentice, in the year 1564, and by him preſented to the earl of Pembroke; prior to which it was cuſtomary for the kings and nobility to wear cloth hoſe; even Henry the 8th, that great and wealthy prince, commonly wore cloth hoſe, excepting a pair or two of ſilk hoſe he procured from Spain. Sir Thomas Greſham preſented Edward the 6th with a pair of Spaniſh ſilk ſtockings, which was much eſteemed, and looked upon as a valuable preſent. Queen Elizabeth, in the year 1560, was by her ſilk woman, Mrs. Montague, preſented with a pair of black ſilk ſtockings, after which period ſhe never wore cloth hoſe. In the year 1580, the ſtocking frame was invented by William Lee, M. A. of St. John's College, Cambridge. Mr. Lee was born at Woodborough, a village in Nottinghamſhire, and was heir to a good freehold eſtate. Tradition ſays, he being deeply in love with a young town's-woman, whom he courted, and always found knitting on his viſits, paying, as he thought, more attention to her buſineſs than to him, made him determined, if poſſible, to contrive a machine (he having a good mechanical head), that would render the ordinary mode of knitting hoſe a gainleſs employment. This he effected, and worked ſome time at the frame himſelf; then he taught his brother, and other relations. He practiſed on this new invention for ſome years, at Calverton, a village about five miles from Nottingham, and either he or his brother worked before Queen Elizabeth, who was deſirous of ſeeing the operation of this new diſcovery. But it ſeems that his countrymen deſpiſed and diſcouraged the invention. He, in conſequence, took ſeveral frames and his workmen, and

ſettled

The family of Poughfer, in Leiceſter, was one of the firſt that made any great progreſs in the ſtocking buſineſs (*b*. It was the practice of hoſiers, on the firſt eſtabliſhment of the buſineſs, in this place, to ſend their hoſe for ſale on a horſe in panniers. So great was the diſlike, or rather prejudice of the lower orders of the people to the hoſe wrought in a frame, on account of the knitters, that when the buſineſs was about to be eſtabliſhed, we are told, that the frames were ſet up in cellars, from the ſtreet, and other ſecret places, where they were worked by night as well as day; a frame, in conſequence, ſerved two men.

Deering, whoſe Hiſtory of the Town of Nottingham was publiſhed in 1751, ſays, after enumerating the towns where the ſtocking buſineſs flouriſhed the moſt; "of all theſe none comes in competition with Leiceſter for quantity of goods; but even this very town, though it may boaſt of its large concerns, yet muſt confeſs that its beſt goods are made at Nottingham." At this time moſt of the ſilk and fine hoſe continue to be made at that place, and the more ordinary at Leiceſter. A very lucrative branch of the frame buſineſs was eſtabliſhed at Leiceſter by the late Mr. Whiteman, called Machine pieces; which diſplayed a wonderful variety of colours and forms. Some of his workmen, it is ſaid, have earned on this fancy-work nearly 2l. 2s. per week, when the ordinary ſtocking-makers could ſcarcely gain, by hard labour, one fourth of the ſum.

ſettled at Roan, in Normandy, where the invention was much eſteemed; but the murder of Henry the 4th, and the inteſtine troubles of that country, fruſtrated all the hopes he had entertained of its ſucceſs. He died at Paris, it is ſaid, of grief; and five or ſeven of his workmen returned to their native country, and laid the foundation of this extenſive and uſeful buſineſs.

DEERING.

(*b*) A ſtocking-frame had been introduced in Hinckley ſo early as 1640, by Mr. William Iliffe, whoſe immediate deſcendant Mr. Joſeph Iliffe is now living in that town, and has carried on the manufacture there with much reputation for more than half a century.

Hiſt. of Hinckley, p. 28.

Streets, Lanes, &c.

Or an illuſtration of the Plan of Leiceſter facing page 1.

Abbey-Gate. An indifferent paſſage in St. Leonard's pariſh, leading from Sunday-bridge to the Abbey. At the abbey end ſtands Counteſs's hoſpital, at the other end ſtood St. Leonard's church.

Northgate-street is underſtood to take in all that open way extending from the *North-gate* to *Sunday-bridge*, formerly Sanvis-bridge. Some extend it to the Cross. The beſt buildings ſtand near the bridge.

High-cross-street extends from *North-gate* to *Redcroſs-ſtreet* end. In that portion between the North-gate and the Croſs ſtand the town and county priſons, king Richard's houſe, free-ſchool, and All-Saints church. Here alſo ſtood St. John's chapel or church, and St. Peter's. That portion from the Croſs to Peacock-lane has been called St. Martin's-ſtreet, and Croſs-ſtreet. This ſtreet is a medley of good and bad buildings.

Southgate-street is now underſtood to extend from Red-croſs-ſtreet to the Infirmary or Horſe-pool-end, an open place, where formerly ſtood a chapel. That portion of this paſſage which extends from Red-croſs-ſtreet end to the Southgate, was formerly called, very properly, Caſtle-ſtreet; but ſtrange to relate, that in the late rage for altering the names of ſtreets, &c. in Leiceſter, one of the moſt narrow entrances of the town, leading from this ſtreet, has been honoured with the name of Caſtle-ſtreet; before, properly called St. Mary's-church-lane. To complete this abſurdity, I would adviſe theſe godfathers and godmothers to name old Caſtle-ſtreet, St. Mary's Church-lane. The buildings, in general, are tolerable. Here ſtands the Magazine, the entrance into the Newark. The above-named ſtreets, together, form a line from North to South, the extremity of the

the town, each way, about a mile and half in length; they formerly conſtituted the high road from the North of England to the Metropolis.

Paſſages of any conſequence from this main road, beginning Northwardly, are,

WOODGATE, an opening leading to Aſhby-de-la-Zouch. A few houſes only on the right hand.

SANVIS-GATE, a broad way leading to St. Margaret's church. This has no buildings of conſequence. Oppoſite to it is

SOAR-LANE, which leads to the river. A few houſes ſtand on the left, and the Quaker's meeting-houſe.

ELBOW-LANE is ſituate near the North-gate.

ST. JOHN'S and BULL'S lanes are ſituate oppoſite each other, near the town gaol; ST. PETER'S LANE, a few paces nearer the Croſs.

BLUE-BOAR-LANE lies oppoſite the free-ſchool, and Free-ſchool-lane at the end of that ſeminary of learning.

HIGH-CROSS-STREET commences near the Croſs, and leads to Coal-hill, or Round-hill, through the Eaſt-gate. This ſtreet is not ſo wide as many of the ſtreets; but it is, in general, better built. In it ſtood Lord's Place, now New Buildings: a fine turret of this noble building is remaining; but it has been lately covered with brick.

SHAMBLES-STREET, oppoſite, was, till lately, called Shambles-lane. It leads to Weſt-bridge.

THORNTON-LANE, and TOWN-HALL-LANE, lie oppoſite to each other; below which is PEACOCK-LANE, and RED-CROSS-STREET, all narrow paſſages.

BAKEHOUSE-LANE, and ST. MARY'S-CHURCH-LANE, alias CASTLE-STREET, lie nearer the Southgate, a few paces from each other.

FRIAR-LANE, and MILLSTONE-LANE, are ſituate, the former on the North ſide, and the latter on the South ſide of Southgate. HANG-

MAN'S-

MAN'S-LANE, a little farther on, now honoured with the name of HORSE-FAIR-STREET, is a paſſage made up on each ſide with dirt walls, a few little dwellings, a malt-office, and a large wool warehouſe. GREEN'S LANE, lower down the ſtreet, leads to *Swan's mill.*

Another principal paſſage of the town lies nearly parallel to that I have above deſcribed. It commences at the St. Margaret's church-end of Sanvis-gate, and extends to the London road above the town. The firſt portion of this is called

CHURCH-GATE. It extends from the church to the Coal-hill. In general but indifferently built, but ſpacious. The other portion, called

GALLOWTREE-GATE, extends from Coal-hill to the end of the town, near the Three Crowns Inn. Here are the principal inns, and here reſted the ſtone coffin of Richard III. at an inn for many years. ARCHDEACON'S-LANE, and BULL'S-LANE, lead from Church-gate. BUTT'S CLOSE is alſo ſituated here. From the main paſſage at the Coal-hill, branch out

BELGRAVE-GATE, and HUMBERSTONE-GATE, two very open ſtreets. The former is well built, and leads to Loughborough. In it ſtands the Roman milliary. The latter leads to Uppingham. In it are ſome very good houſes, and others very indifferent: a great nuiſance, St. Margaret's workhouſe, ſtands at the nether end of it, in the middle path-way.

COAL-HILL, ROUND-HILL, or HAYMARKET, for it has all theſe names, is an opening on which ſtands the Aſſembly-Room, and a weighing-machine. Here are ſome good houſes.

SWINE'S MARKET, a narrow ſtreet at the Eaſt end of High-ſtreet. This was formerly called Parchment-lane: it might now, with ſome propriety, be called Market-ſtreet, as it leads directly into the market, and the Pig-market is moved thence.

SILVER-STREET lies in a line almoſt parallel to High-ſtreet. It leads from the Town-Hall to the Eaſt-gate; it is narrow, but in it

are ſome good dwellings. St. Martin's church ſtands at the Weſt end.

CANK-STREET leads from New-ſtreet, near St. Martin's church, to what has been lately named *Cheapſide*, an open way, which may be conſidered a portion of the market-place, below the conduit. Would not *Conduit-ſtreet* have been more proper than Cheapſide?

NEW-STREET leads to St. Martin's church northwardly. It was built on part of the Gray-Friars. A bad paſſage, with ſome good dwellings.

APPLEGATE-STREET and BRIDGE-STREET (the latter a name given lately to a paſſage which contains about two houſes of each ſide leading to Weſt-bridge) form an elbow. Theſe, and the lanes and avenues about them, ſtand upon the ſite of the Roman city, in general but indifferently built; but this portion of the town is honourable and venerable from years and its antiquarian treaſures. The whole iſland cannot produce two ſuch monuments of high antiquity as the Janua-Wall, called Jewry-Wall, and the Roman-Sewer.

LOSEBY-LANE, now the the Pig-market, a ſhort ſtreet which leads into Cank-ſtreet; here are two or three good houſes.

Other lanes, &c. there are, of inferior note, beſides thoſe that change their names with the whim of the inhabitants. Some places I have noticed in other parts of the work, among which is the Market-place. *St. James's Square*, a name given to a little opening at the upper end of the Market-place, without the leaſt propriety, might be now altered, with much propriety, to *Rozzel's Square*, in honour of the poet of that name. His conduct implied this language, "Here will I dwell, for I have a delight therein."

POPULATION,

Taken from the pariſh regiſters, &c.

The firſt ſtatement in the following table is the average of a year in five, at progreſſive periods, including the four next ſucceeding years after each date; in the diviſion of each, fractions are not regarded.

St. Mary's, *St. Nicholas's*, and *All-Saints* regiſters are not much to be depended on before the year 1600. *St. Martin's* is very clear ſo early as 1558; *St. Margaret's* 1615, conſequently the births and burials, at that time, are given under the head 1600, and St. Leonard's not till lately: this regiſter has been ſometimes kept with the officiating miniſter of All-Saints; latterly with him of St. Margaret's.

		1558.	1600.	1650.	1700.	1750.	1787.
ST. MARY'S - -	BIRTHS.	——	26	19	26	70	120
	BURIALS.	——	18	14	24	73	112
ST. NICHOLAS -	——	——	6	10	13	13	23
	——	——	6	7	9	16	16
ST. LEONARD'S	——	——	——	——	——	——	12
	——	——	——	——	——	——	9
ALL-SAINTS -	——	——	23	24	24	44	86
	——	——	24	15	21	50	88
ST. MARTIN'S -	——	41	38	46	62	56	73
	——	38	35	35	53	71	77
ST. MARGARET'S	——	——	38	35	53	56	139
	——	——	30	37	40	83	117

By this table it appears that there were baptized, annually, at the pariſh churches, taken collectively in Leiceſter, about the year 1600, adding 6 for St. Leonard's, - - - 137

At the preſent period, on an average of five years - - 453

Increaſe 316

Burials at the former period 119

At the preſent period - - 419

Increaſe 300

To the Rev. Mr. Carte's ſtatement of the families and ſouls in Leiceſter, in 1712, I have added that taken in 1785, and one I have taken, in which the dwellings are given from the levy-books of the poor, with the addition of ſome not rated. In St. Mary's pariſh ſtatement, the Newark and Caſtle view are included. The ſtatement in 1785 is liable to objections reſpecting the number of ſouls,

ſouls, as they were aſcertained by queſtions put to the heads of families, many of whom, I am informed, replied with irony, others grew angry, and would not reply at all, and ſome evaded anſwers. Calculating *five* to a family, I think is nearer than any other given number; but any gentleman may judge for himſelf reſpecting the number of ſouls in Leiceſter at this time, from the table, whether his opinion be 4½, 5, or 5½ to a family.

	Mr. CARTE's, 1712.		1785.		1792.		
	Families.	Souls.	Families.	Souls.	Dwellings.	Families.	Souls.
ALL-SAINTS - -	220	1100	501	2408	470	551	2755
ST. MARGARET's	380	1900	756	3296	800	850	4250
ST. MARTIN's -	350	1750	524	2620	533	565	2825
ST. MARY's - - -	250	1250	668	3090	604	687	3435
ST. NICHOLAS -	90	450	180	900	138	187	935
ST. LEONARD's	not noticed.	- -	97	450	90	95	475
	1290	6450	2726	12784	2635	2935	14675

The following table will ſhew the wonderful increaſe in the population of Leiceſter ſince the manufactory of hoſe has been eſtabliſhed in that place in 1680. It is taken to ſhew the progreſſive increaſe, at ſtated periods, from the burials of the pariſhes, collectively, by Dr. Price's calculation, that one in thirty die every year. The firſt column commences in 1558, nearly 400 years after the town was deſtroyed; but, as St. Martin's regiſter alone begins ſo early, the reſt are given in that column from an average ſtatement of the increaſe of the ſucceeding years. The reader ſhould obſerve, that this ſtatement does not include the Diſſenters who bury at their reſpective places of worſhip.

	Deaths.	Families.	Souls.
In 1558	100	600	3000
1600	116	696	3480
1650	111	666	3330
1700	151	906	4530
1750	301	1806	9030
1787	419	2514	12570

To the 12570 ſouls ſuppoſed to be at preſent in Leiceſter, taken from the deaths of all the pariſhes, being an average of 1787, 1788, 1789,

1789, 1790, and 1791, if we add fifty burials, to have been on an average in a year, in that time, at the Diſſenting places of worſhip, it will give an addition of 300 families and 1500 ſouls, making the number of ſouls, in all, 14070.

Remarks from the Registers, &c.

St. Martin's pariſh, by its regiſter in 1558, compared with the others about the year 1600, appears to have been then the largeſt in the town. St. Margaret's the next in conſequence. St. Mary's and All-Saints nearly of a ſize. St. Nicholas's very ſmall. St. Leonard's muſt have been then ſmall alſo; but, for want of a regiſter at that time, nothing can be given with any degree of certainty.

In St. Mary's regiſter there is a ſingular inſertion reſpecting a gentleman, who lived in the Newark, ſoon after the Reformation, being indulged by the prieſt with the privilege of eating meat during Lent, on account of his ill ſtate of health.

Alſo on the cover of the regiſter is a ſort of table of the officiating clergy of this pariſh, which perhaps may be more correct than the account of the vicars I gave in page 218; at leaſt it will ſerve as an addition to that liſt. "*John Bennet*, miniſter and curate 1618. *John Willows*, miniſter, 1632. *William Croft*, vicar, 1640. *Holden*, miniſter, 1648. *Peſtal*, miniſter, 1658. *Joſiah Bond*, vicar 1679. *William Fox*, curate, 1683, vicar 1688."

In the ſame regiſter is a melancholy inſertion of the ravages of the Plague in the years 1610, 1611. Theſe are diſtinguiſhed from the ordinary burials by a *P* againſt each inſertion. The average number of burials a little before this time was no more than 18; but at this time there died of the plague, in this pariſh, 160, beſides the ordinary burials. It appears to have raged moſt in the ſummer months. To ſhew its ravages in ſome families, I give the following copies from the regiſter.

6 1610.

1610.

"P. (plague) Alice, D. of Ralph Wilkinſon, buried the 3d day of September.

"P. Thomas, S. of Ralph Wilkinſon, buried the 8th day of Sept.

"P. Eliz. D. of Ralph Wilkinſon, the 8th day of Sept

"P. David, S. of Ralph Wilkinſon, the 11th day of Sept.

"P. Ralph Wilkinſon died the 18th day of December.

1611.

"P. Chriſtiana, the wife of Thomas Vademan, buried the 9th day of July.

"P. Thomas Vademan buried the 27th of July.

"P. Edward, S. of Thomas Vademan, 8th of Auguſt.

"P. George, S. of Thomas Vademan, 9th of Auguſt.

"P. Thomas, S. of Thomas Vademan, 12th of Auguſt.

Although St. Margaret's Regiſter be loſt for this period, I am apprehenſive that the ſkeletons lately found in St. Margaret's cow-paſture, near the church, in making the canal, were the remains of thoſe who might die in a peſt-houſe without the town, or in houſes detached from the ſtreets in this part of Leiceſter. A peſt-houſe is mentioned in St. Nicholas pariſh-accounts; probably there was then one for every pariſh. By the corporation accounts, at that time, we may diſcover that all communication was cut off from thoſe within the town. There are charges in their books for guards, and placing chains on the bridges. Theſe things ſhew a ſtrong probability that the ſkeletons were thoſe of the afflicted by the plague; they were all found in ſeparate graves, at uſual depths (but not in the order they are laid in church-yards) and near each other. Had they been the remains of ſoldiers killed in battle, they would probably have been interred in one grave.

In

In *All-Saints* regiſter, however, are certain demonſtrations of the ravages of this dreadful diſorder. At the end of the burials for 1611 is this inſertion. "This yeare ther was a great plague in Leir, ſo that ther died above ſix hundereth in the town." In this pariſh it did not rage violently for more than three months. In the month of July died 32, when the burials for a year, a little before that time, were 24 only.

Particulars of this plague in the pariſhes of St. Martin and St. Nicholas are inſerted page 108.

Longevity.

The oldeſt people who have died lately in Leiceſter were a Mrs. Bankart, mother of Mr. Bankart, an eminent woolſtapler, and a Mr. Parſon, both of the pariſh of St. Mary. She, it was ſaid, died aged 100, and he at the age of 95.

There are now living in the pariſh of St. Martin, within a few paces of each other, four widows, whoſe ages amount together, to 362; viz. Mrs. Throſby, aged 92. Mrs. Streeton, 91. Mrs. Dunnerly, 91, and Mrs. Hill, 88. Mrs. Throſby is J. T's mother, and relict of Alderman Nicholas Throſby. She has lived in *five* reigns, and at this advanced period of life is able to walk to church without aſſiſtance, has a retentive memory, and can ſee to pick up a pin from the floor. It has been computed that this old lady, who has almoſt through life been conſtant in her devotional exerciſes, has attended the public ſervices of Almighty God in the pariſh church of St. Martin 20,000 times! Here is ſervice twice a day. Mrs. Streeton is relict of Alderman Clement Streeton. She retains a great portion of her faculties, but appears to be more enfeebled, and conſequently bending under the infirmities of old age. Mrs. Dunnerly is mother to the wife of Mr. Chamberlain, baker, is exceedingly cheerful, converſant, and but little debilitated, and has lately

lately reliſhed the entertainments of a theatre. Mrs. Hill, the youngeſt of them all, is mother to Mr. Samuel Hill. She is tolerably healthful, conſidering her years; but has lately loſt her ſight. It is rather remarkable, that, in this central pariſh, where theſe old people live, one in four, who have been buried, have lived to be ſixty years of age and upwards. This the pariſh regiſter will teſtify for the laſt twenty years.

NAVIGATION.

This was a ſcheme offered to the conſideration of the public, to extend the navigation from Loughborough to Leiceſter, chiefly along the river Soar. There were ſeveral public and private meetings for the furtherance of the plan. The judgment of the people ſeemed much divided, for a long time, while this buſineſs was in agitation: one party boldly and confidently contending for its great utility, and the other as poſitively aſſerting to the contrary. The *principal* meetings on this buſineſs were held, as to time, nearly as follow:

At a meeting at the Guildhall of this borough, in June 1780, it was agreed that there ſhould be a ſurvey taken from Loughborough to Leiceſter.

In June 1785, there was an intended partial meeting to have been held at the 'Change, which proved, however, a reſpectable and numerous one. At this meeting 13,000l. was ſubſcribed in ſupport of the ſcheme.

September following a general meeting of the county was held at the caſtle: preſent the earls of Ferrers, Denbigh, and Harborough, Lord Rawdon, Sir John Danvers, Sir Thomas Fowke, and very many of the gentlemen of the county. Lord Harborough opened the buſineſs in favour of a navigation, and was ably ſupported by Charles Morris, Eſq. of Loddington. Lord Rawdon and others oppoſed the meaſure. The friends, who were for preſenting a bill to parliament,

entered

entered into a ſubſcription to ſupport it; and the others declared their intention to oppoſe it.

In October following another meeting was called at the Caſtle, when it was agreed to ſend a bill to parliament.

In November ſucceeding there was a general meeting held at the Caſtle, when it was reſolved that a navigable cut from Coleorton to Loughborough, thence to Leiceſter, would be advantageous. This meeting was honourably attended, many for it, and ſome againſt it.

In October 1786, a meeting was held at the 'Change, when it was agreed, that extending the navigation from Loughborough to Leiceſter would be of great utility.

In May 1789, on the ſecond reading of the bill in parliament, for making the river navigable from Loughborough to Leiceſter, Sir James Erſkine objected, and moved to put off the reading of it till that day four months. For the motion 73, againſt it 37.

This deciſion, inſtead of depreſſing, fired the ſupporters of the bill, and their friends, with indignant zeal. The oppoſition, and their friends, ſeemed to pride themſelves upon their power and ſtrength in the Houſe of Commons; and in conſequence judged themſelves ſecure from any future attempt. Time, however, which levels all diſtinctions, and reconciles the moſt inveterate enemies and jarring intereſts, coaleſced theſe contending parties. The leaders conjointly, in the end, *after accommodating each other*, formed one mighty phalanx in the year 1790, before which every little prowler bent his knee in humble ſubmiſſion. Within the walls of St. Stephen, when this all-powerful body preſented their final petition, ſcarcely a gentle ſound was heard in oppoſition. The grounds, before about to be deſtroyed by cuts and towing-paths, found now no advocate. The water-mills, which heretofore, it was roundly aſſerted in the Houſe of Commons, by the loſs of water, might injure the neighbouring inhabitants, now it was aſcertained would move rapidly, to afford ſuſtenance in plenty to all around. Even the poor bargemen,

who

who had before been honoured as pilferers of ducks and geese, ſuffered at this miraculous change of ſentiment no imputation of character: to uſe a vulgar adage, *Wonders will never ceaſe.*

A little poem, in the Hudibraſtic ſtile, which was ſhewn me, about this time, in manuſcript, written by one then living, who poſſeſſed a ſpark of poetic fire, appeared to me a tolerable picture of the times. It would have been printed, I am informed, but for ſome perſonality it contained. As the paſſages of the poem, however, which relate to men in general, cannot give offence, I have given them in the note below *; In

* "When Navigation firſt grew high,
Of which ſome talk'd they knew not why;
Poor tradeſmen, they, and eke the rabble
Women, not few, began to gabble
'Bout cuts, and rivers clear'd of mills,
To bring home coals thro' murm'ring rills.
Sugar and plumbs for puddings hot,
And porter, fine, for every ſot;
Such happy days in embr'o waiting,
E'en boys anticipated eating.
In houſe, and lane, and ev'ry ſtreet,
The project heighten'd to a treat
To thoſe who found no animation
In cuts, and boats, and navigation."

"Here one ſits down with pen and ink,
And tows his boat through every ſink-
Hole in the county, where his brain
Can let in floods ſucceeding rain,
To ſend his treaſure home in tubs,
In boxes, barrels, fill'd with ſuds
Of porter, ſhak'd and made to float
On canals ſightly, in a boat.

"Another, he would ſit and reckon,
And tell his friends by nod or beckon,
How much, *per cent*, his ſcheme would bring-in,
If parli'ment would take the thing in.
But, reader, all were not ſo catch'd,
To count their chicks when none were hatch'd,
For ſurely 't were like Bedlams mad,
To fill their boats when none were had.
But wiſe men always will be plodding
O'er projects mighty, e'en when they're nodding
I judge it now quite right to tell,
That all were not ſo wiſe, though well;
For numbers they kept to their callings,
And minded not the others brawlings:
The greater part, I mean to ſay,
Kept jogging on that good old way."

"Others of ant-hills mountains made,
For this was now become a trade;
Even frogs were made to hop and jump
In ladies bed-rooms on their rump,
Where boating ſtreams were made to paſs,
By timid men and maids, alas!

"Here's one bewails poor Loughbro's lot,
If navigation ſhould be got;
For all their boats would then be jogging
To Le'ſter town to aid the bobbing,
Which ſome would have be creeping thence,
With manufacturers and pence."

"There mad and hog-like men in plenty,
Who would be ſtil'd as great as gentry,
Join'd the cry of ruin! ruin!
Alas! ſave! ſave! we're all undoing.
Did you, kind reader, ever know
That ſwines, which grovel here below,

In this imperfect ſtate of the Leiceſter navigation little can be ſaid. It may be obſerved, that the original eſtimate for completing it amounted to 44,000l. including the collateral branch, which takes in, partly by a rail-way, the Leiceſterſhire collieries and Bredon lime-works. This ſum, many ſay, will be inſufficient for its completion; 60,000l. ſome judge it will coſt. The ſhares, however, at Chriſtmas 1792, ſold, clear of the depoſit, for 170l. The ſpring of the year 1794 is the time expected that this work will be finiſhed.

I will conclude this hiſtory by recording a memorable inſtance of the ſpirit of the times reſpecting projects of this ſort. The wonderful increaſe of the value of ſhares in the Leiceſter navigation in the year 1792, and the aſtoniſhing price that ſhares ſold for in the Grand Junction ſcheme at that time (*a*), induced numbers, ſome with and others without money, to ſpeculate in navigation projects: high and low, rich and poor, the blind and lame, old and young, women, and I had almoſt ſaid children, ſallied forth, in the memorable year 1792, when, and wherever a ſcheme of this ſort was announced. Market Harborough, Northampton, Elleſmere, Nottingham, Derby, Melton-Mowbray, Grantham, Aſhby-de-la-Zouch, Oakham, at places near London, in Scotland and Wales, &c. &c. and the never-to-be-forgotten Segs-hill, can bear teſtimony to this truth.

Are provident about their neighbours,
When troughs are full with others labours?
Or did you ever ſee a duck
Regard its chum, like fowls, who chuck?
Their dirty food in ſink-holes chamble,
And live for ſelf, in puddle's ſcramble.
Such like are thoſe who live to pleaſe
Themſelves alone, and others teaze.
Others, there are, chiefs of a ſtring,
Who ſnarl, and ſcratch, and bite, and grin,
For fear the land ſhould in all pop,
Down the ſtream, or elſe ſhould hop,
By navigation's magic art,
To diſtant lands thence to impart
Thoſe comforts, which to all are given
By the bounteous hand of heaven.

"After this conteſt by each party,
The nays join'd ayes very hearty.
But how do you judge it came to paſs?
Why, I'll tell you—This great maſs,
Of het'rogeneous fleſh grew civil,
When combin'd, or link'd from evil.
Self, dear ſelf, being their chief aim,
How could ſuch each other blame?
They therefore aſk'd of parliament
A prayer, to make them all content
With the modeſt view of cent per cent."

(*a*) Before this bill was obtained, ſome people in Leiceſter cleared by their ſubſcription 700l.

Segs-

Segs-hill, where there was a meeting which I am about to notice, is a public houſe upon the old Foſs road, diſtance from Leiceſter ten miles. The landlord of this ſolitary inn had a party of ſelect friends about to dine with him on a certain day; this coming to the ears of ſome wags, they judged it a favourable opportunity of humming the *Leiceſter Navigators* (by this name they were then called). Theſe accompliſhed Sons of Fun contrived to publiſh, by the teſtimony of their friends in the ſecret, that there was on that day, to be a ſnug or ſmuggled meeting, to ſubſcribe to *a* navigation then nameleſs; well knowing that many people in Leiceſter cared neither about the time, the coſt, the utility of the ſcheme, where it was to be, or the probable benefits that might ariſe therefrom in the iſſue. They, in general, it was well known, were at all times eager to ſubſcribe with the laudable intention to enrich themſelves by ſelling. This rumour of the meeting did not prevail generally till the night before. Not having much time to enquire into the cauſe of a meeting at ſuch an obſcure place, the ſcrupulous, as well as the credulous, next morning journeyed in this vain purſuit. The various roads thither were lined with horſe and foot. Many, through eagerneſs, took the neareſt road over the Foſs in mire and clay. Some, who found time for reflection upon the road thither, by enquiring, judged themſelves to be upon a wrong ſcent, and left the pack to find a ſecret paſſage home. The landlord at Segs-hill not being acquainted with the joke, ſtood amazed at the approach of ſuch an hoſt of ſtrangers, who, on their arrival, began to accoſt him with queſtions of this ſort. "Where's your oſtler?"—"Take my horſe!"—What room is the meeting to be held in?"—"Who takes the chair to day?"—"Your houſe will not hold a tythe of the people who are coming."—"Why was a navigation-meeting called here?"—Landlord, why don't you anſwer?" "What the Devil's the matter with you?"—

The poor man ſtood as it were faſcinated by the queſtions about *navigation*, *chair*, *&c.* but the good hoſteſs, with the baſting-ladle in

her hand, ſeeing her huſband much embarraſſed, replied with courage unappalled; "What the plague do you mean? I tell you there's no navigation-meeting here! Where the devil do you come from? Leiceſter! Then you are all mad."

The huſband, by this time, being a little more collected, endeavoured to reaſon coolly with theſe wild adventurers, who had, haſtily ſtuffed his houſe as full as his wife's pudding-bag that was boiling. Some he preſently convinced of their error, who laughed at their own credulity; others poſitively aſſerted that he knew there was to be a navigation meeting, and attend it they would. However, the majority, by this time, caſting their eyes upon the roaſting and boiling, wiſhed to ſatisfy other wants, beſide thoſe they were in purſuit of, the cravings of an hungry ſtomach; but in this, alſo, they were miſerably diſappointed. The ſtout landlady, like a bold and good ſentinel kept guard over the dinner of her friends ſhe was cooking, regardleſs of the general clamour for food: by her looks ſhe forbade even a ſop in the dripping pan. And who among this aſſemblage of fortune-hunters dare aſſail an able female cook in her province, up to the elbows in greaſe, and half roaſted; armed with ladles, pot-hooks, dripping-pans, ſauce-pans, ſpits, boiling water, and fire? By this noble ſtand of a determined woman, numbers of the aſſailants travelled back as they came, "with hungry guts and empty purſe," or to uſe an old ſimile, "like a dog that had burnt his tail." Others travelled to the neighbouring villages, where they, it is ſaid, leſſened the burdens on the bacon-cratches, and the tale of eggs intended for market. Some taking a hint from the old adage "round about is the neareſt way home," and "loving darkneſs rather than light," arrived at their dwellings at a late hour, with the loſs of time and a little caſh, at the coſt of labour and travel, full of diſappointment and chagrin, and through much peril and danger; and what was more mortifying than all the reſt, they, the next day, were to bear the "gibes and ſcorns of the times, and their neighbours contumely."

This meeting was nearly the laſt that was attended by the great body of the people, who heretofore had been adventurers in navigation-ſchemes from this place. It has been advanced, that in no town of its ſize, (ſome will except none,) has there been a ſum, taken collectively, equal to that ſubſcribed in Leiceſter to navigation-projects. Athough many have gained conſiderably by adventuring, yet we are now told that others, holders of ſhares, are likely to ſuſtain conſiderable loſſes, whether from the war, or any other cauſe, I know not. A general opinion prevails, July 1793, that ſome of the ſchemes muſt fail, as the extenſion ſhares to Market Harborough are now transfering for the ſmall conſideration of a bottle of wine; and others which have been ſome time agitated by the general ſhock, and ſtill ſurvive, are far from a ſtate of convaleſcence.

EXPLA-

Explanatory Note and Errata.

It ſhould be underſtood that the printing this hiſtory was begun and intended to have been completed in 1791, as the title page expreſſes it; but unforeſeen delays happened which prevented that event taking place till 1793. In conſequence the writer had an opportunity of inſerting many occurrences which took place within that time. This he judged neceſſary to explain, as it might appear ſtrange, to many readers, that the book ſhould be printed in 1791, and contain information in the years 1792 and 1793.

It is neceſſary alſo to obſerve that ſome of the plates in this work were engraven, originally, for the Leiceſterſhire Views; in conſequence the poſſeſſors of both works will have duplicates of *thoſe* engravings; but to thoſe not poſſeſſed of the Leiceſterſhire Views, they will be an acquiſition of importance, particularly as they are all immediately connected with the town of Leiceſter, done in a beautiful ſtyle, and given here without any additional expence to the purchaſer.

ERRATA.

Page 4, line 7, in the note, *read or put* Wroxeter for Worceſter.
— 13, l. 10. *read* Rawdikes *for* Rowdikes.
— 20, l. 22, — Well *for* Wall.
— 44, l. 8, — were *for* was.
— 121, l. 8, — were *for* where.
— 125, l. 6, — effect *for* affect.
— 144, l. 14, — Denſhire *for* Denſhin.
— 173, l. 11, — years *for* yards.
— 174, in the note, *read* 1687-8, *for* 1787-8.
— 189, line 10, — times *for* time.
— 215, l. 13, — and thoſe noticed *for* or the accounts of thoſe.
— 272, l. 17, — the *after* be; *in the next line but one omit* more
— 276, laſt line of the note, *read* Broad-ſtreet to be, *for* Bread-ſtreet was.
— 285, line 5, in the note, *read* giving it here *for* giving here.
— 310, l. 3, — Eaſt and Weſt *for* North and South; *lower*, Weſt *for* Eaſt.
— 400, *read* Roazel *for* Rozel.
— 410, laſt line but four, *read* burials in a year.

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